

UNTAMED

A QUALITY
ROMANCE
PUBLICATION

I.C.D.
7

JULY No.4

10¢

LOVE

Also

ILLUSION OF RAPTURE

HOUSE OF TORMENT

TREACHEROUS DESIRE

Read-
"From that night on
my reputation was
TARNISHED!"



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

PLAY PIANO THE FIRST DAY... OR DON'T PAY!

Here's Your Chance to
BE POPULAR!



I'M CERTAINLY MISSING A LOT
OF FUN, AND DATES, TOO.
IF I COULD ONLY PLAY
THE PIANO THE WAY
BETTY DOES.
'WONDER HOW SHE
LEARNED SO FAST?
I'LL ASK HER THE
FIRST CHANCE I GET.

MARY, I NEVER TOOK A LESSON IN MY LIFE - BUT
NOW I CAN PLAY WELL, THANKS TO THE
AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR AND
THE DEAN ROSS SIMPLE ABC METHOD.
YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT!

IF IT'S AS EASY
AS YOU SAY AND
IT ONLY COSTS
\$1.98 I'LL SEND
FOR IT
RIGHT AWAY!

GLAD I TOOK BETTY'S ADVICE.
NOW I GET INVITED
EVERYWHERE. NO MORE
WALLFLOWER STUFF
FOR ME!

"I learned to play a song in 10
minutes."

—A.C.C., Washington

"Even if one never played a
note it is easy."

—C.G.H., New Hampshire

"Now I can play sheet music
beautifully."

—E.S., New York

Hundreds of thankful, en-
thusiastic letters like these
are in our files.

New, Patented **AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR** Guides Your Fingers

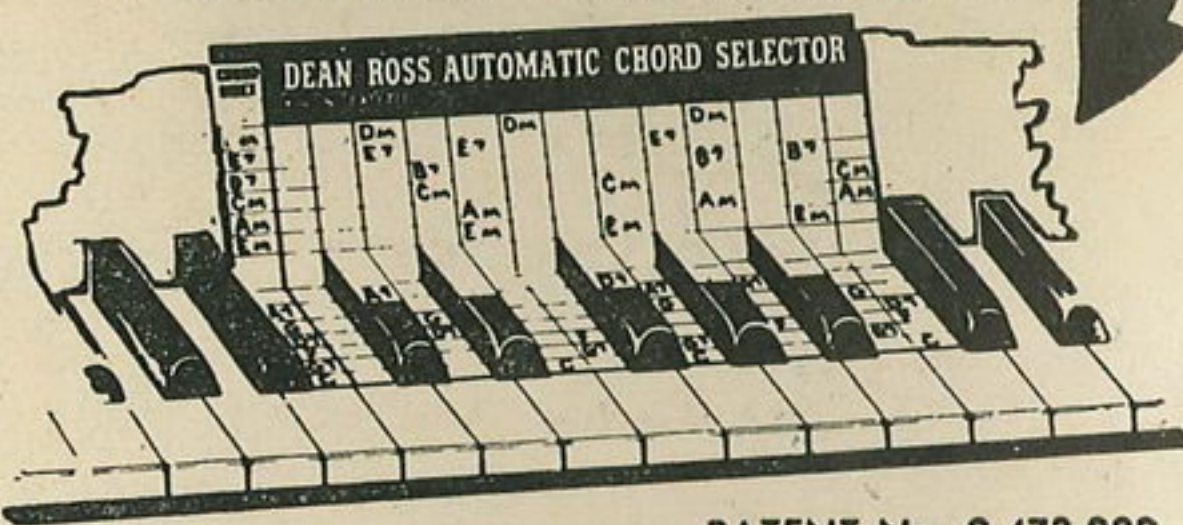
You, too, can play piano with **BOTH** hands, in no time at all! Thousands have learned to play this fast, easy way. With the amazing, new invention, the **AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR** there's really nothing to it. Before long you're playing songs everyone enjoys... from Hit Parade numbers and hymns to beautiful old ballads.

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NO EXERCISES!
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ARE WILD
ABOUT THE
WAY I PLAY
PIANO—CAN'T
THANK DEAN
ROSS ENOUGH



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UNTAMED LOVE, July, 1950, No. 4. Published bi-monthly by Comic Magazines, 8 Lord Street, Buffalo, N.Y. Executive Offices, 578 Summer Street, Stamford, Conn. Everett M. Arnold, General Manager. Harry Stein, Editor. Alfred Grenet, Elaine Allen, Gloria Bley, June Andrus, Richard Arnold, Associate Editors. Entered as Second Class Matter September 23, 1949 at the Post Office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Application pending at Meriden, Conn. The characters and events pictured herein are entirely fictitious. The Publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Editorial and Advertising Offices, 25 West 45th Street, New York 19, N.Y. Copyright 1950 by Comic Magazines. Printed in U.S.A.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH—Yvonne De Carlo, Universal star, by Bernard of Hollywood, Globe.

ONE NIGHT CHANGED MY LIFE...ONE TERRIBLE NIGHT OF LOVE AND HATE, AND I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF THE KIND OF GIRL WOMEN DESPISED AND MEN WOULD NEVER THINK OF MARRYING! FROM THAT NIGHT ON, MY REPUTATION, MY VERY EXISTENCE WAS...

Tarnished



ARE YOU GOING TO THE PARTY TONIGHT, GAIL?

OF COURSE, EVELYN! I WOULDN'T THINK OF MISSING IT!

In the meantime, fun was the keynote! Somebody was always giving a party somewhere in Stanville!

YOU KNOW BRUCE JORDAN'S GOING TO BE THERE, I SUPPOSE?

HE IS? GOSH! I MEAN...ER...THAT'S INTERESTING!

I belonged to the gay younger set in Stanville! Our parents were comfortably well off, and while the sons were trying to get a foothold in business and the professions, the daughters were trying to get a foothold on the sons!



UNTAMED LOVE

Even as I tried to sound casual, I knew it wouldn't work! Just the mention of Bruce Jordan's name made my pulse beat faster!

CERTAINLY NOT YOU AND FRAN PARKER!

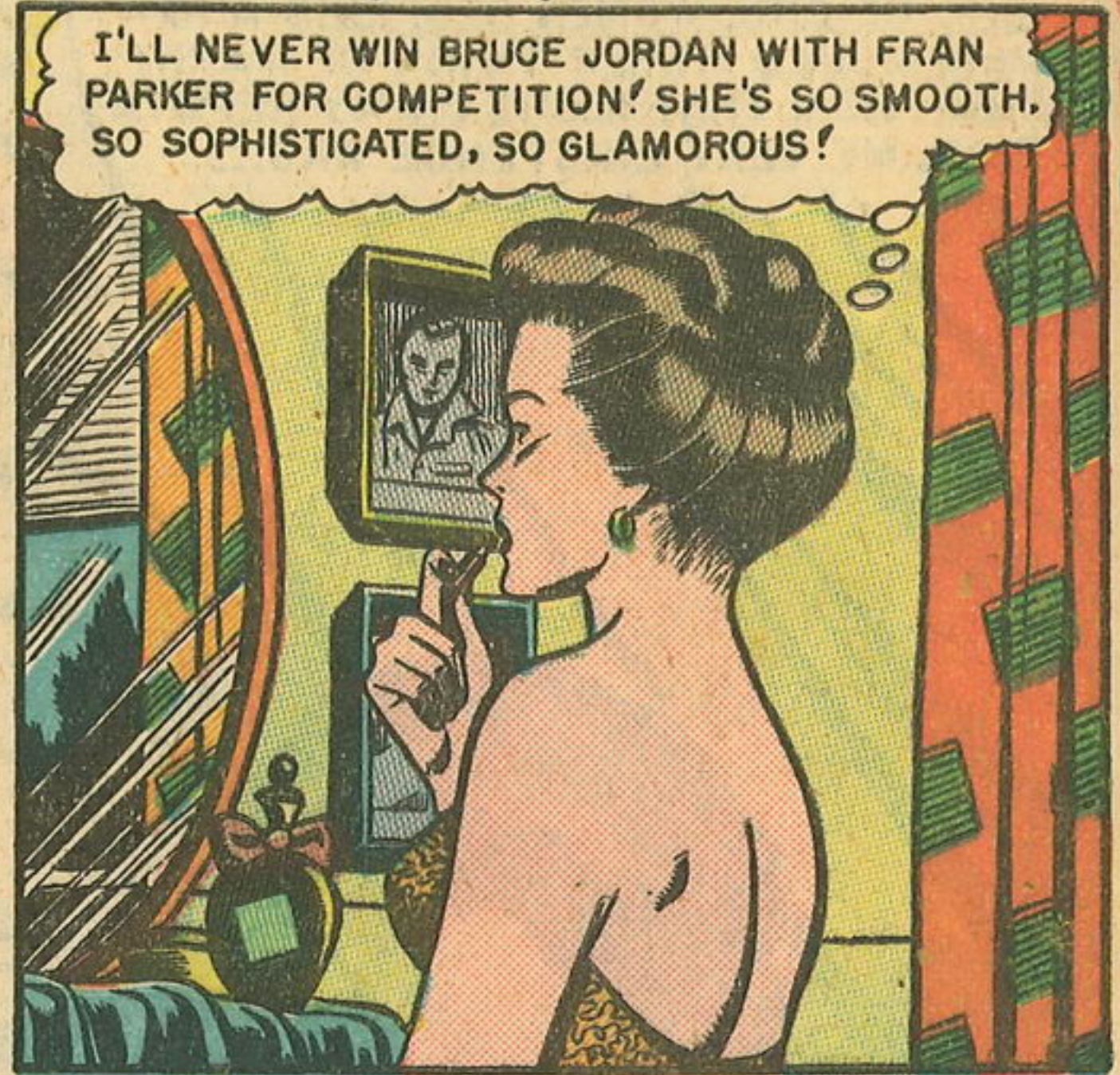
I SUPPOSE SO! GOODBYE NOW, GAIL!

EVELYN MARTIN, YOU CAN'T KID ME! YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALL AGOG OVER THE IDEA OF SEEING HIM!

ALL RIGHT, GAIL, LET'S FACE IT! WHO WOULDN'T BE?

Fran Parker! Even a girl's best friends are ninth-tenths cat, and Gail Harrison knew quite well what the thought of my rival did to me!

I'LL NEVER WIN BRUCE JORDAN WITH FRAN PARKER FOR COMPETITION! SHE'S SO SMOOTH, SO SOPHISTICATED, SO GLAMOROUS!



But that wouldn't stop me from trying! To stop trying to become the wife of Bruce Jordan would be like deciding to give up breathing! And I was breathing the night of the party... breathing hard...

EVELYN, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU!

NONE OF US HAVE SEEN VERY MUCH OF YOU EITHER, BRUCE, SINCE YOU WENT TO THE BIG CITY TO BECOME A TYCOON!

IT'LL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I'M A TYCOON, IF EVER, EVELYN, BUT I DID GET A PROMOTION RECENTLY!

OH, I'M SO GLAD FOR YOU, BRUCE!

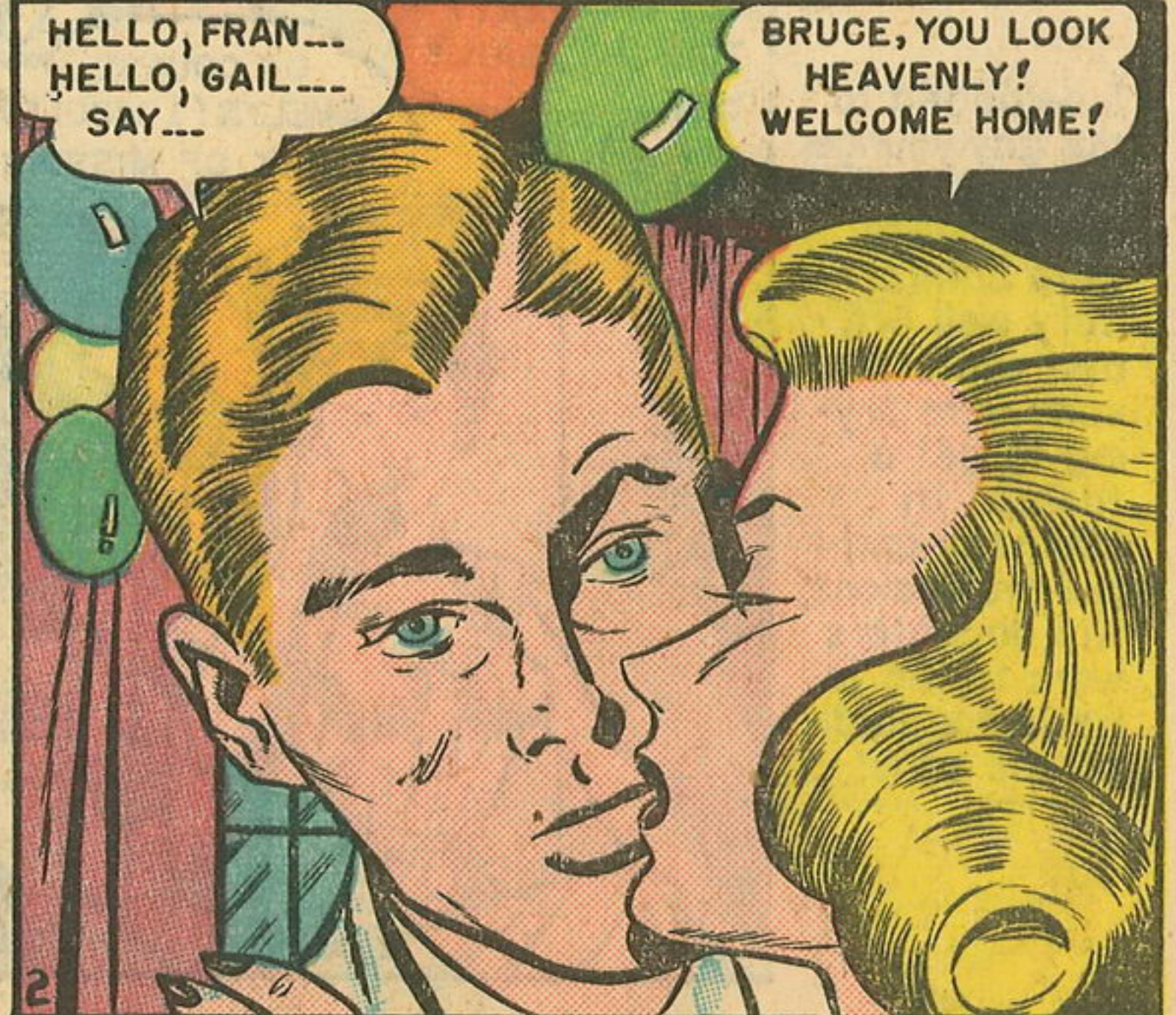


BRUCIE DARLING, HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN! GAIL JUST TOLD ME YOU WERE HERE!

I KNEW EVELYN WOULD FORGIVE US IF WE ONLY STOPPED FOR A MINUTE TO SAY HELLO!

HELLO, FRAN... HELLO, GAIL... SAY...

BRUCE, YOU LOOK HEAVENLY! WELCOME HOME!



UNTAMED LOVE

That was Fran Parker...casual but determined... and whatever she did that looked like madness had plenty of method in it!

As for Fran Parker's strategy and attack...there are generals and field marshals who could take lessons from her!

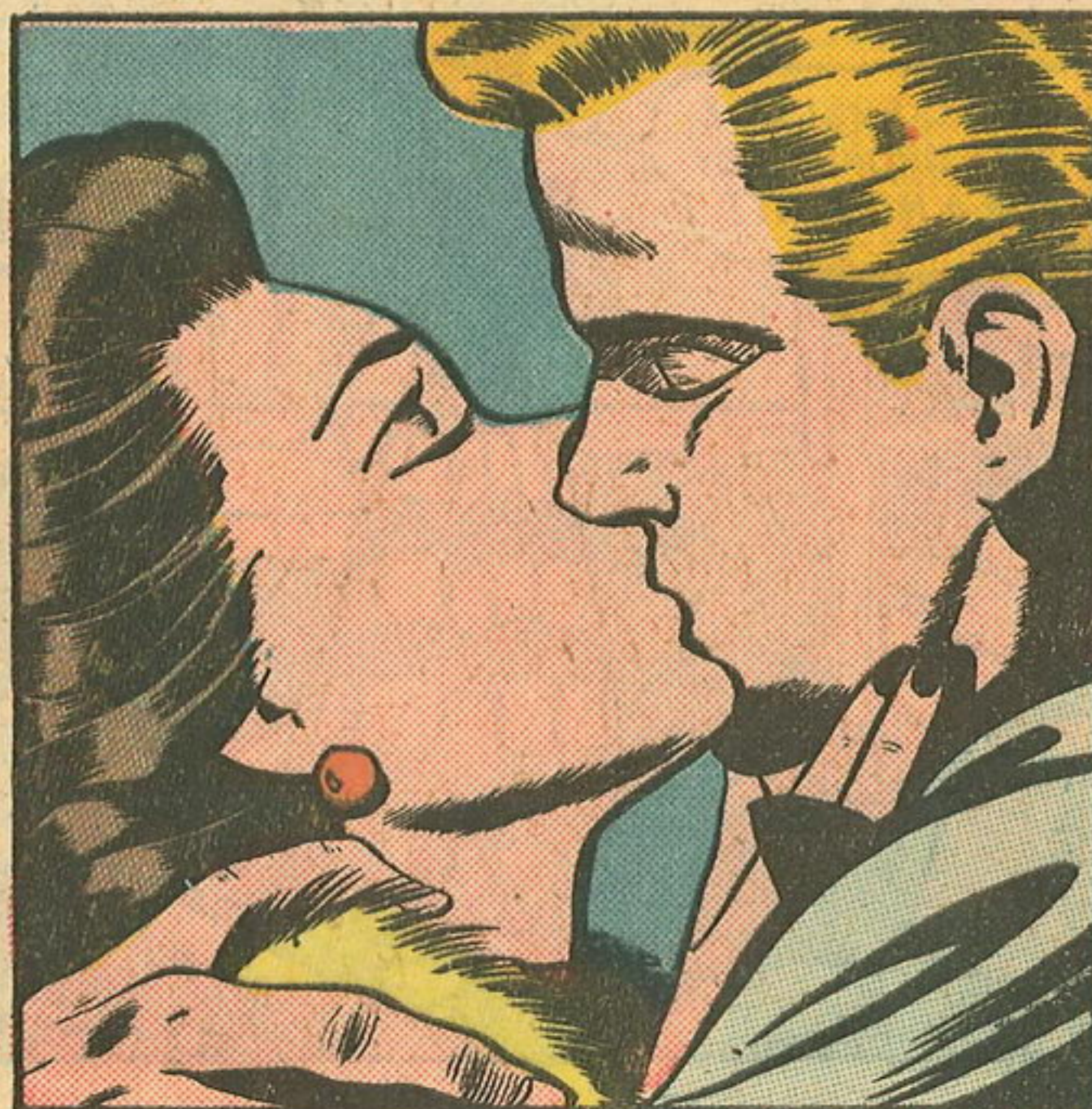


All right with whom? Not with my heart which was crying out at the top of its voice to be with Bruce...alone!

But life is full of surprises --- and some of them can be so pleasant!



This was it! Fran Parker could have her confident sophistication! I had Bruce's arms around me and his lips on mine! I didn't know how I had done it, but it was done... and my heart and blood were singing a wild love song!



UNTAMED LOVE

A voice, with the icy impact of a jet of cold water, suddenly brought me back to earth---

OH, I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO STOP YOU! OUR HOSTESS ASKED ME TO SHOW MR. THORPE WHERE TO PUT HIS HAT AND COAT... AND YOU MUST ADMIT I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THIS ROOM WAS BEING USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES!



HA! HA! PRETTY POMPOUS SPEECH, FRAN! BUT WHY BE SO SEVERE WITH TWO PEOPLE INDULGING IN SOME HARMLESS NECKING?

I DON'T LIKE YOUR TONE, CHUM!



ARE YOU KIDDING? SAY, WHAT KIND OF A PARTY IS THIS? EVERYBODY SURE IS STUFFY!



I'M GLAD YOU DON'T LIKE IT HERE! TAKE THIS AND GO HOME!

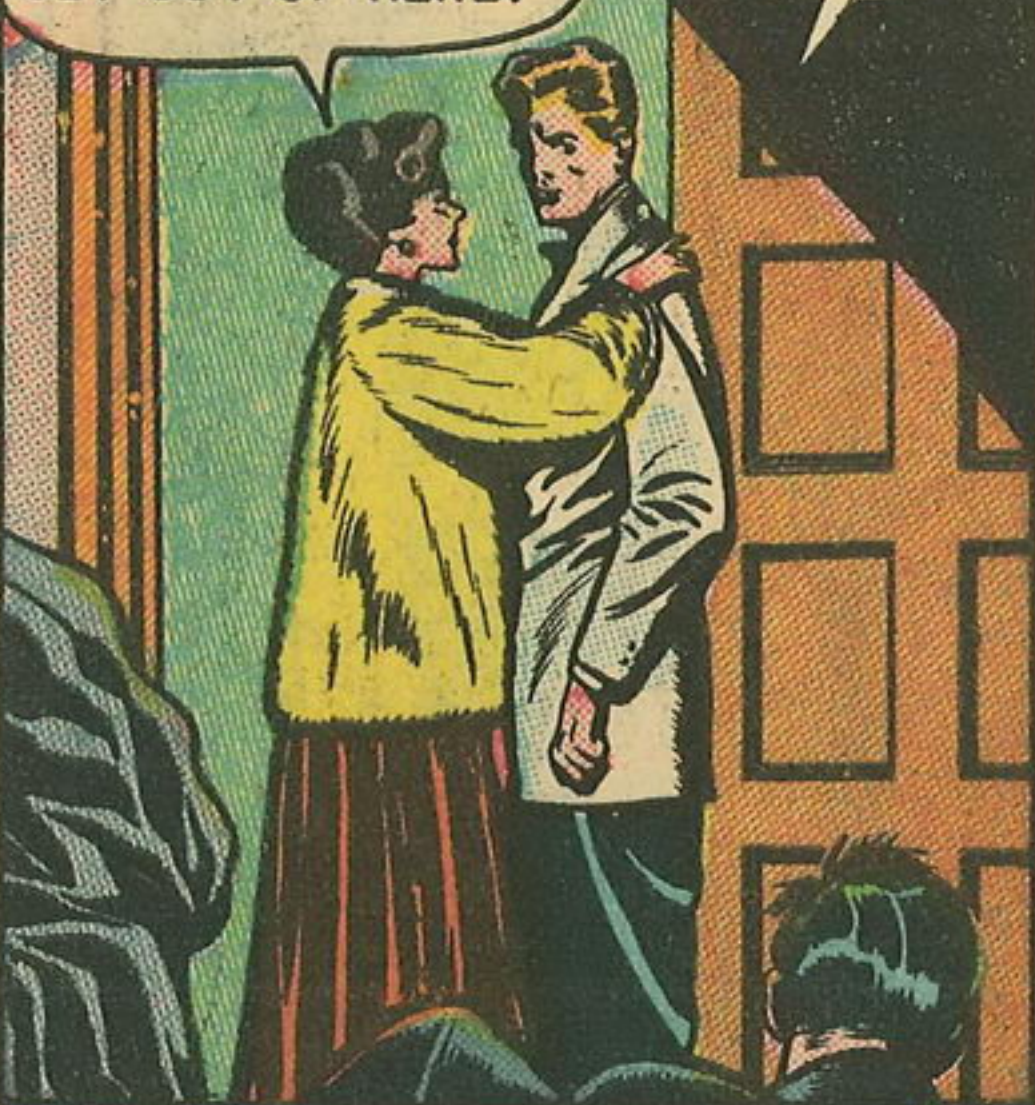


DEAR ME, EVELYN, YOU'VE ACTUALLY GOT BRUCE READY TO SHED BLOOD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR GOOD NAME!

HA!
HA!



OH, BRUCE, THIS IS SO IDIOTIC! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



NOT A BAD IDEA!

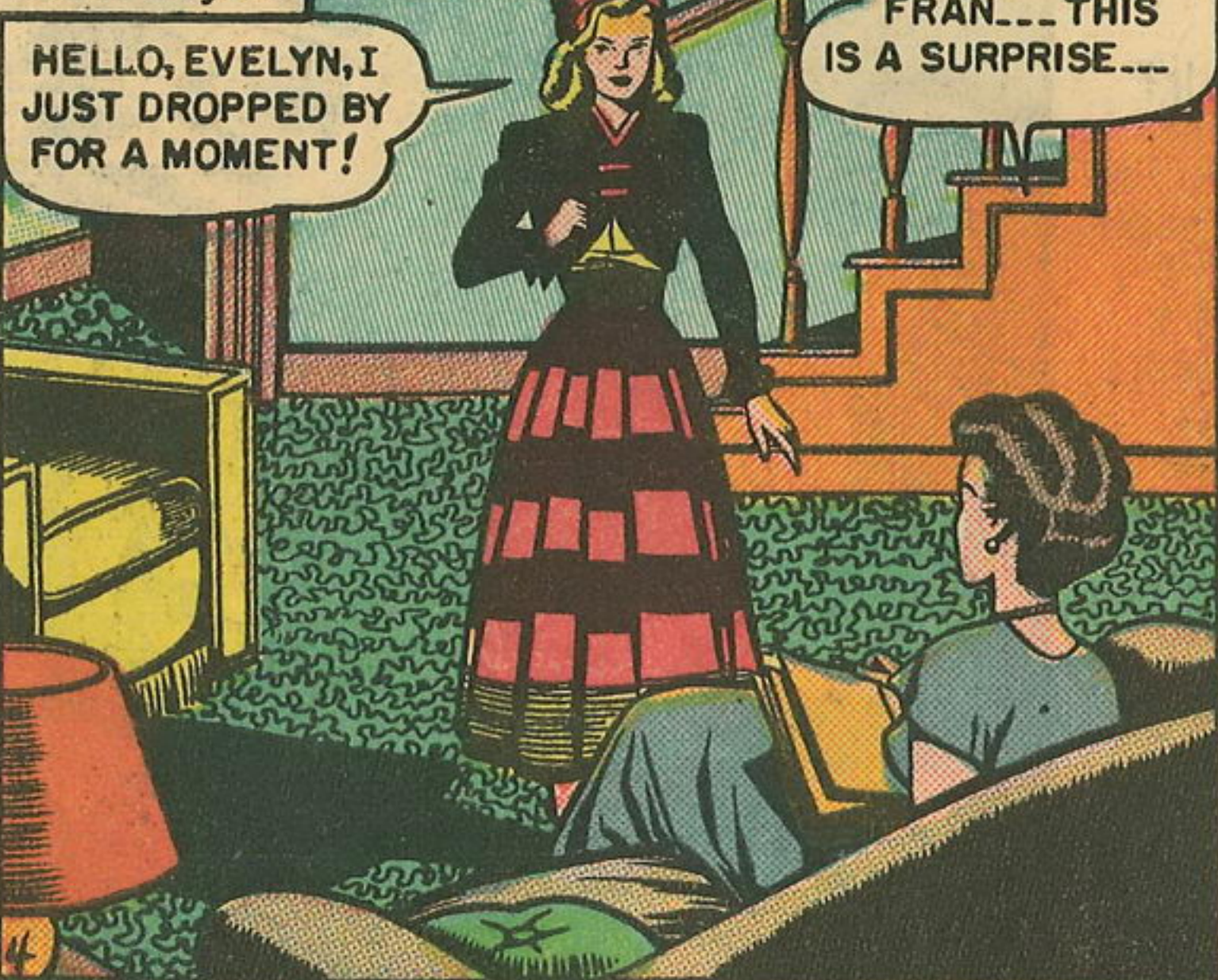
I should have been warned by the vicious gleam in Fran Parker's eyes... I should have known that she wasn't giving up yet... but it was so easy to forget everything in Bruce's arms!

MAYBE I WAS OVERDOING THE KNIGHT IN ARMOR ROLE, EVELYN, BUT SOMEHOW I COULDN'T STAND HEARING THAT SMART ALECK REFER TO THAT KISS AS NECKING!



I KNOW, DARLING, IT WAS SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT... SO MUCH DEEPER... SO MUCH MORE FULL OF MEANING!

Several days went by! Bruce was staying in Stanville for a while, and I saw him each night! Then out of a clear sky---



HELLO, EVELYN, I JUST DROPPED BY FOR A MOMENT!

FRAN... THIS IS A SURPRISE...

I KNOW, DEAR! YOU THINK I'M FULL OF VENOM BECAUSE YOU'RE GETTING BRUCE JORDAN! BUT YOU'RE SO WRONG... AND I DO THINK WE SHOULDN'T ENDANGER OUR FRIENDSHIP BECAUSE OF A MISUNDERSTANDING! AFTER ALL, WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE CHILDHOOD!



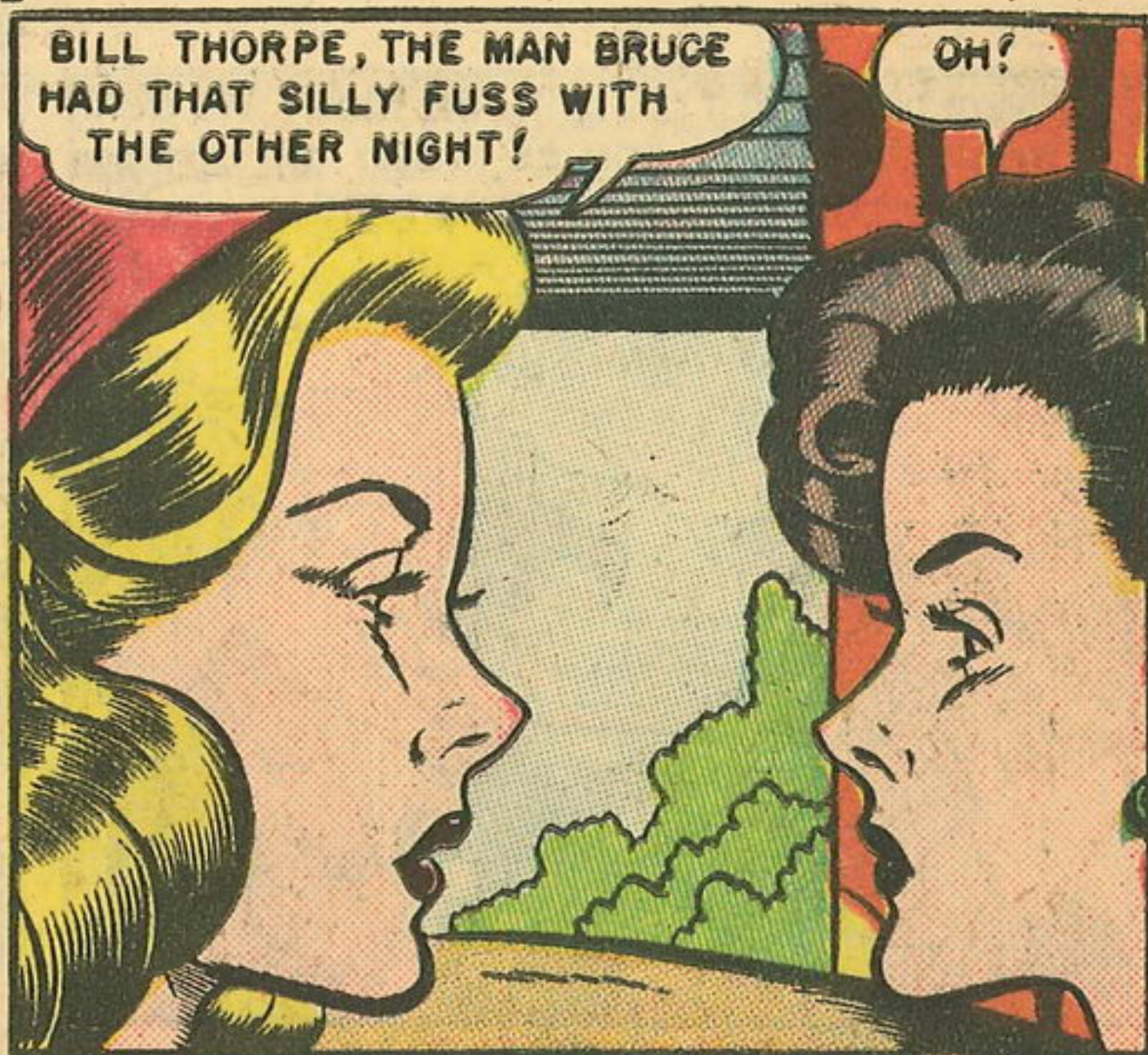
OF COURSE... BUT...

UNTAMED LOVE



OH, I KNOW YOU WERE SURE I WANTED BRUCE AS BADLY AS YOU DID... BUT REALLY I DIDN'T! I JUST LIKED HIM AS A FRIEND! AND IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, I'M ACTUALLY TOO MUCH IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE TO EVEN GIVE BRUCE A THOUGHT NOW!

OH, FRAN, HOW WONDERFUL! WHO IS IT?



BILL THORPE, THE MAN BRUCE HAD THAT SILLY FUSS WITH THE OTHER NIGHT!

OH!



DON'T SOUND SO DISAPPOINTED FOR ME, EVELYN! BILL'S REALLY A CHARMING FELLOW! HE JUST GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT WITH YOU AND BRUCE, AND HE'S SO ANXIOUS TO MAKE IT UP!

WELL, I GUESS THERE'S BEEN NO HARM DONE!



OF COURSE NOT... AND TO SHOW HOW MUCH HE MEANS IT, BILL HAS ASKED ME TO INVITE YOU AND BRUCE TO A LITTLE PARTY HE'S GIVING AT A LODGE HE OWNS OUT IN THE COUNTRY! IT'S ONLY ABOUT TWELVE MILES FROM TOWN!

I GUESS WE CAN GO! I'LL TALK TO BRUCE!



PLEASE TRY TO COME! IT'LL NOT ONLY MAKE FOR BETTER FEELING ALL AROUND, BUT YOU'LL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME! BILL ALWAYS GIVES MARVELOUS PARTIES!

I THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT, FRAN!

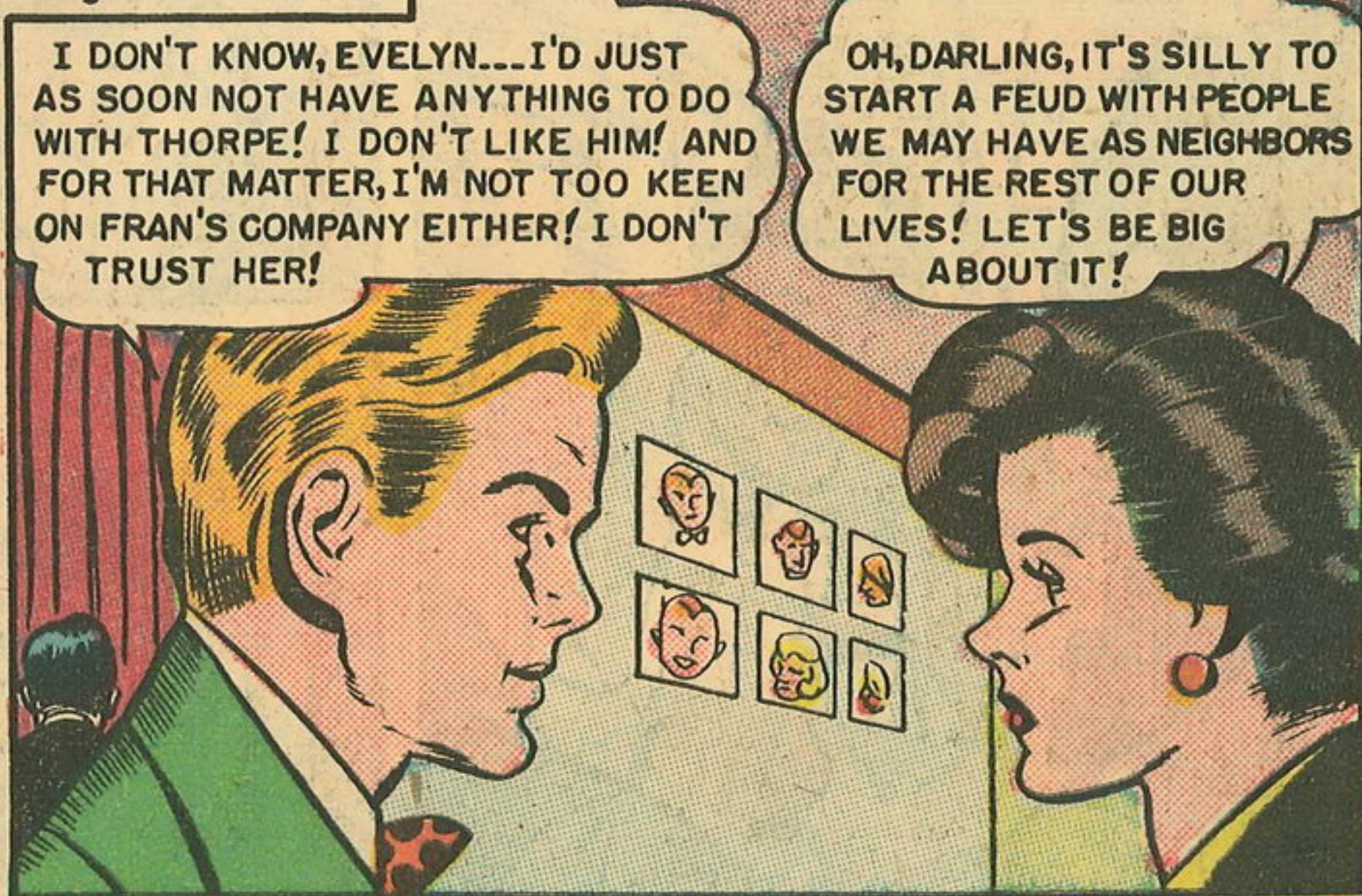
That affectionate peck on my cheek was really the kiss of a cobra! Why didn't I have sense enough to know it?

Women are supposed to have that infallible intuition, yet it was Bruce who seemed to sense imminent catastrophe... and I who argued with him!



'BYE NOW, DARLING! DO TELL BRUCE WE ALL WANT TO BE FRIENDS!

I WILL, FRAN! GOODBYE!



I DON'T KNOW, EVELYN... I'D JUST AS SOON NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THORPE! I DON'T LIKE HIM! AND FOR THAT MATTER, I'M NOT TOO KEEN ON FRAN'S COMPANY EITHER! I DON'T TRUST HER!

OH, DARLING, IT'S SILLY TO START A FEUD WITH PEOPLE WE MAY HAVE AS NEIGHBORS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES! LET'S BE BIG ABOUT IT!

We were big about it all right... big fools! We went to the party at Bill Thorpe's lodge!

HELLO, JORDAN...HI, EVELYN!
WE HAD KIND OF AN INFORMAL
INTRODUCTION BUT I DO KNOW
YOUR NAMES! SAY, I AM SORRY
ABOUT THE CRACK I MADE
THAT NIGHT!

THAT'S ALL
RIGHT!
FORGET IT!

H'MMM! I CAN
SEE THAT!

HA! HA! IT'S ALL INFUN...
JUST A LITTLE HARMLESS
NECK...ER...I MEAN
THEY'RE JUST BEING
AFFECTIONATE!

I had made a bargain and I was going to keep it! Fran Parker had been gracious about losing Bruce to me, and the least I could do was be nice to her and the man she loved now!

HEY, YOU LOVEBIRDS,
MEET EVELYN AND
BRUCE!

HI!

HA! HA! MAYBE
YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE DISTURBED
THEM!



UNTAMED LOVE

IT ISN'T A VERY BIG
PARTY, IS IT?

BILL LIKES HIS
PARTIES INTIMATE!



LET'S GET OUT, EVELYN!
I DON'T LIKE THIS
PARTY!

NOW, BRUCE, LET'S NOT
ACT LIKE A COUPLE OF
OLD BLUENOSED FUDDY-
DUDDIES!



That was not what I felt like saying! I said it because I thought it made me out a jolly good fellow, but the disapproving look Bruce cast my way cut like a knife! Still, I had set my course of camaraderie and meant to follow it!

MY, YOU HAVE SOME
LOVELY HUNTING
TROPHIES, BILL?

THESE ARE NOTHING!
YOU SHOULD SEE SOME
OF THE ONES I
HAVE IN THE DEN!



MAY I SHOW
THEM TO YOU?

I'D LOVE TO
SEE THEM!



UNTAMED LOVE



I was bored but I meant to go through with the business of tightening the bonds of friendship! Then suddenly...



I tried to wriggle gently out of Bill Thorpe's grip...tried and failed...



I almost gave way to the impulse to cry out for Bruce... but that wouldn't do! Bruce would hit Bill Thorpe, and we'd all be right back where we had started! Besides, I felt I could talk Bill out of his amorous mood...



A sudden quick maneuver and Bill Thorpe held me helpless... with his lips on mine! I was aware of a gasp from the direction of the doorway, but I couldn't turn to see who was there!



It seemed only another moment before I heard the starting of a car and the hum of wheels on the gravel outside...

And then the sound of another car being started... and leaving...leaving me alone...



UNTAMED LOVE

Fury... blind, blazing fury... overwhelmed me... and I lashed out at Bill Thorpe's face with a hand that hammered and clawed...



Frantically, desperately, I ran through the deserted living room!



BRUCE AND FRAN GONE! BRUCE MUST HAVE SEEN ME IN BILL'S ARMS... AND TO HIM, IT MUST HAVE LOOKED AS IF I WANTED TO BE THERE!

Did you ever walk twelve miles on a country road in high-heeled shoes? It's a long and painful journey and it isn't helped much by bitter thoughts!



IT'S ALL SO CLEAR NOW! FRAN MUST HAVE PLANNED IT THIS WAY! SHE KNEW WHAT BILL THORPE WAS LIKE, KNEW HIS FRIENDS COULD BE COUNTED ON TO GO-OPERATE! AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT, SHE REVEALED ME TO BRUCE AS A CHEATING, DECEITFUL HUSSY! OH-H-H!

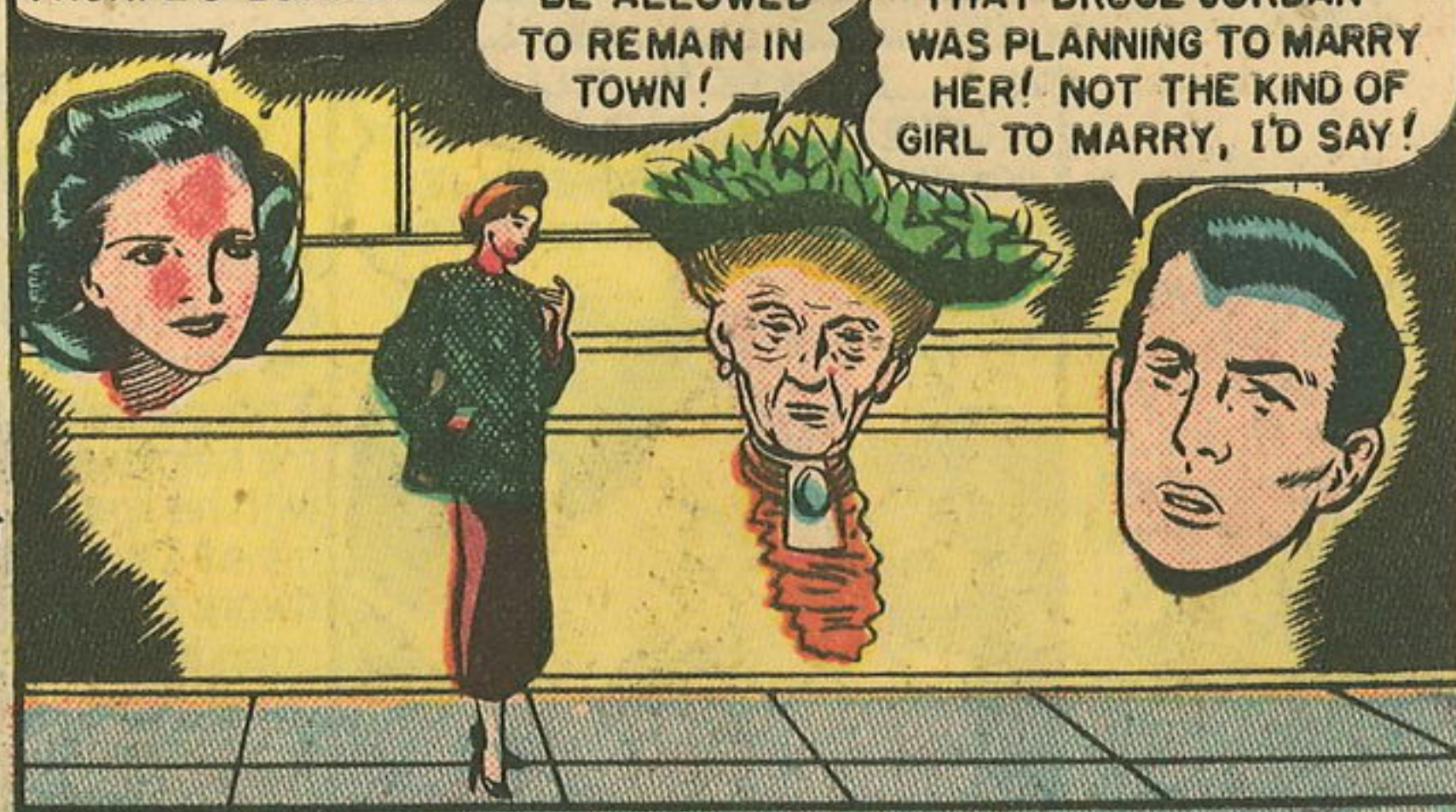
It was morning when I got home, weary and footsore, but worse than my exhaustion was the heartache!



OH, WILL BRUCE BELIEVE ME IF I TRY TO EXPLAIN?

Still, how insignificant that morning's problem seemed in contrast with the shock and horror that went with the discovery I made late that afternoon...

I GOT IT STRAIGHT FROM FRAN PARKER THAT SHE SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT OUT AT THAT AWFUL BILL THORPE'S LODGE!



A GIRL LIKE THAT SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN TOWN!

AND TO THINK THAT ONLY THE OTHER DAY I HEARD THAT BRUCE JORDAN WAS PLANNING TO MARRY HER! NOT THE KIND OF GIRL TO MARRY, I'D SAY!

THE WHOLE TOWN'S TALKING...THEY ALL BELIEVE THIS HORRIBLE STORY FRAN'S SPREAD AROUND! OH-H! IT'S BRUCE...WITH FRAN! THAT LOOK ON HER FACE...IT SAYS AS PLAIN AS DAY THAT HE'S HERS NOW!



Like a wounded animal, I hid in my room and gave myself up to grief and despair...

I'LL NEVER LIVE THIS DOWN! NOBODY WILL EVER BELIEVE MY STORY IF I TRY TO TELL IT... AND BILL THORPE, THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WHO COULD CONFIRM IT, WOULD PROBABLY GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE THE WORST!



I lost track of the days in my desperate solitude! And then, like a bolt from the blue, a ray of hope came shining through the darkness from the least likely source in the world!



A MR. THORPE IS DOWNSTAIRS, MISS EVELYN! HE SAYS IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT HE SEES YOU RIGHT AWAY!

THORPE? IT...IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE WOULDN'T DARE COME HERE!

UNTAMED LOVE

Hatred welled up inside me until I could scarcely breathe...



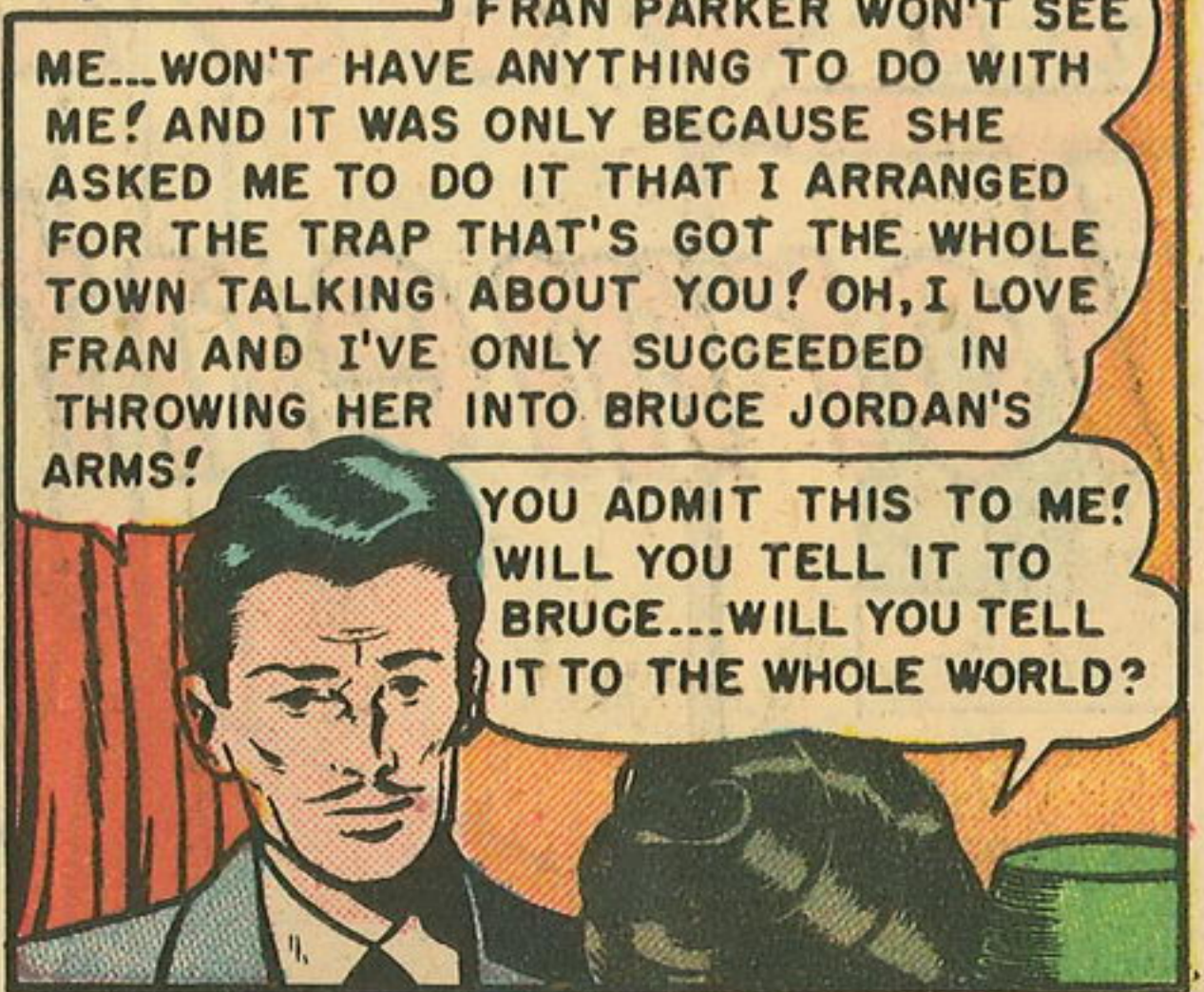
I'LL SEE HIM! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN MAKE HIM PAY!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, EVELYN... AND I'M PROBABLY AS BAD AS YOUR PICTURE OF ME... BUT I'VE COME TO BEG YOU FOR FORGIVENESS AND HELP!



HELP? YOU WANT HELP FROM ME?

Strange how vulnerable each man is in his own way...even Bill Thorpe...and his vulnerability, I thought, might be my salvation!



FRAN PARKER WON'T SEE ME... WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME! AND IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE SHE ASKED ME TO DO IT THAT I ARRANGED FOR THE TRAP THAT'S GOT THE WHOLE TOWN TALKING ABOUT YOU! OH, I LOVE FRAN AND I'VE ONLY SUCCEEDED IN THROWING HER INTO BRUCE JORDAN'S ARMS!

YOU ADMIT THIS TO ME! WILL YOU TELL IT TO BRUCE... WILL YOU TELL IT TO THE WHOLE WORLD?

Bill Thorpe went to the phone as I spoke...



I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET FRAN BACK! I'LL CALL JORDAN NOW!

In ten minutes Bruce was at the door and on his heels came Fran Parker...



EVELYN, IS WHAT THORPE JUST TOLD ME ON THE PHONE TRUE? OH, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME, YOU FOOLISH DARLING?

I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME!

IT'S A LIE, BRUCE! DON'T BELIEVE IT! I WAS AT YOUR SIDE WHEN YOU TALKED TO BILL ON THE PHONE! I HEARD EVERY WORD AND THEY WERE ALL LIES!



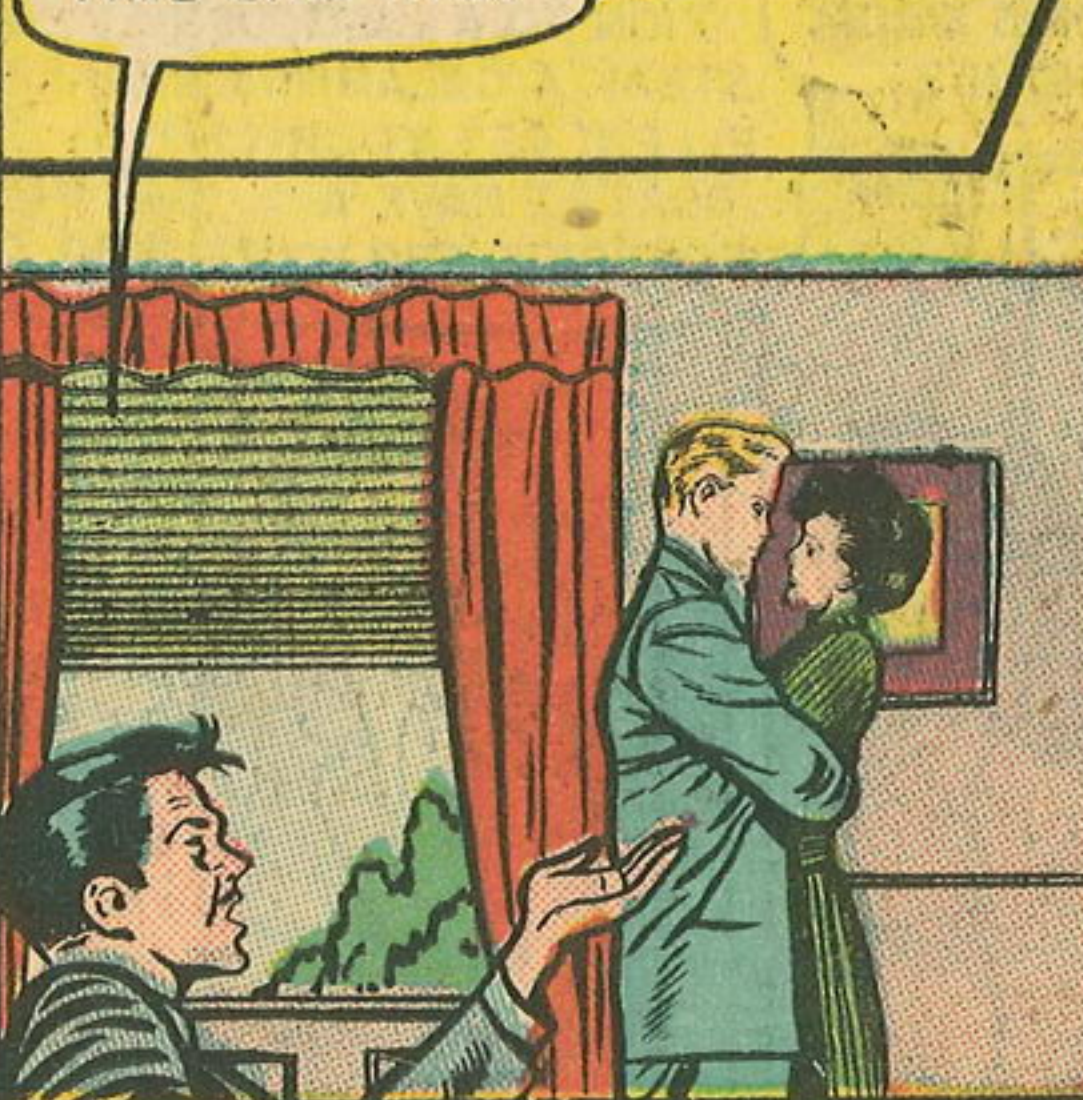
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH, FRAN PARKER! WE KNOW WHO THE LIAR IS! I ONLY WISH YOU WERE A MAN!

I SUPPOSE I OUGHT TO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING OUT THE TRUTH AT LAST! SO, ON THE ONE HAND, I THANK YOU AND ON THE OTHER HAND, HERE'S SOMETHING FOR YOUR PART IN ALMOST WRECKING EVELYN'S REPUTATION AND LIFE!



OW-W-W!

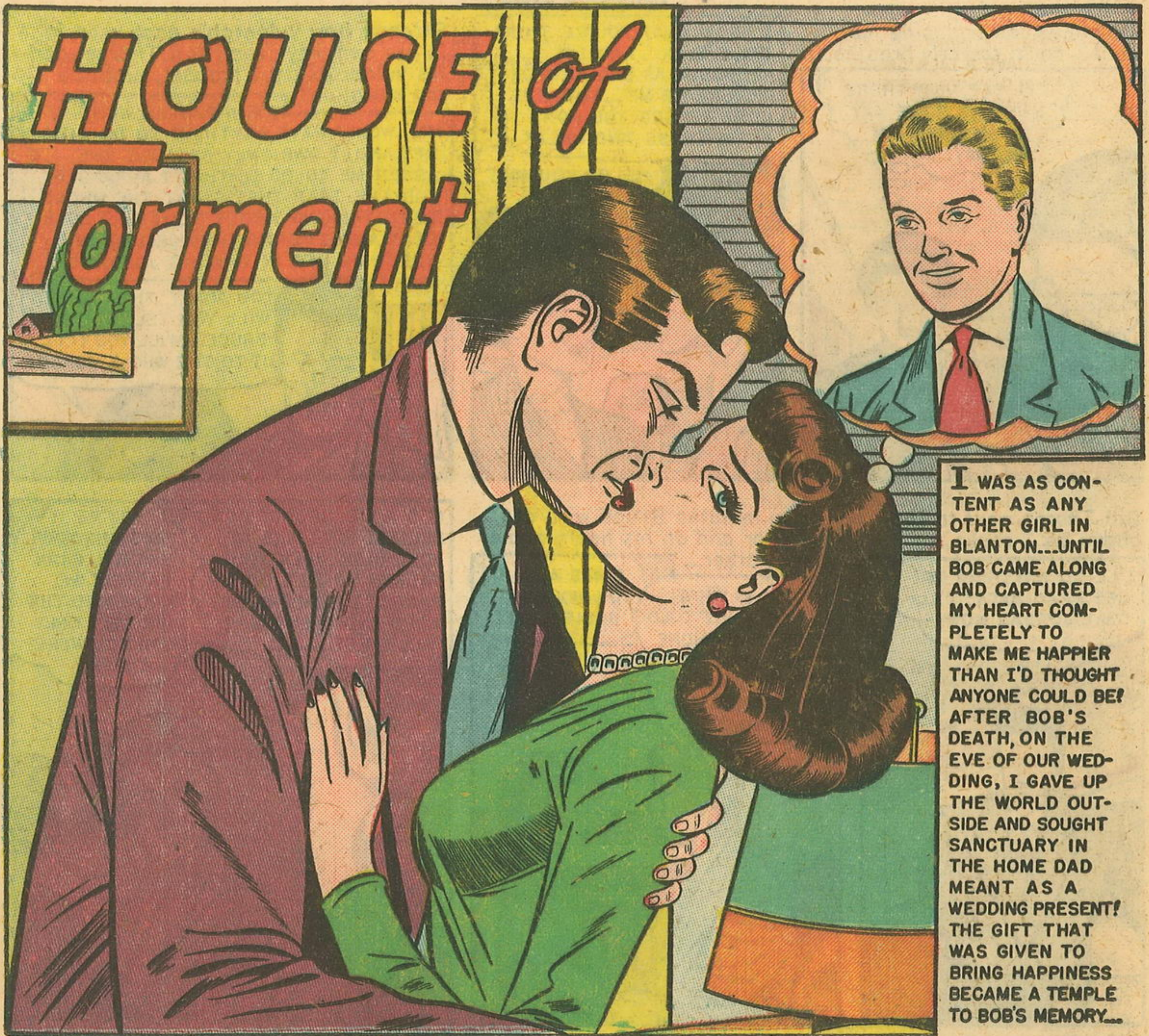
FRAN... PLEASE... YOU CAN'T DESERT ME AT A TIME LIKE THIS!



I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER TIME, YOU WORM!



It must be true that Fate takes care of lovers! It took care of Bruce and me... and, as they deserved, even of Bill Thorpe and Fran Parker!



HOUSE of Torment

I WAS AS CONTENT AS ANY OTHER GIRL IN BLANTON...UNTIL BOB CAME ALONG AND CAPTURED MY HEART COMPLETELY TO MAKE ME HAPPIER THAN I'D THOUGHT ANYONE COULD BE! AFTER BOB'S DEATH, ON THE EVE OF OUR WEDDING, I GAVE UP THE WORLD OUTSIDE AND SOUGHT SANCTUARY IN THE HOME DAD MEANT AS A WEDDING PRESENT! THE GIFT THAT WAS GIVEN TO BRING HAPPINESS BECAME A TEMPLE TO BOB'S MEMORY...

Dad and Mom were kind...but I refused their frequent invitations to dinner or the movies! I didn't *want* to forget Bob... The memory of what might have been and the home that housed our memories was all that I wanted from life!



WHY THE VISIT, DAD? IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG AT HOME?

NOT UNLESS YOU CALL AN INVITATION TO A LUSCIOUS STEAK A CALAMITY, ELLEN! GET YOUR COAT. I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

It was the kind of meddling I hated! Dad knew how I disliked going out where places and people reminded me of the man I'd lost!



I'M SORRY, DAD, BUT I'M NOT GOING! YOU KNOW I'D LIKE TO GO BUT I CAN'T, NOT EVEN TO PLEASE YOU AND MOM!

BOB'S BEEN DEAD FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, ELLEN! THIS TIME I INSIST THAT YOU COME! DIRK COLEMAN IS THERE AND HE EXPECTS YOU! HE WAS BOB'S BEST FRIEND AND HE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BEST MAN! GET YOUR COAT!

UNTAMED LOVE

Dad was right... I was forced to accept! As we neared the house, I found myself looking forward to seeing Dirk once more!



IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, DIRK! WE CAN HAVE A TALK ABOUT OLD TIMES, WHEN BOB WAS STILL AROUND!

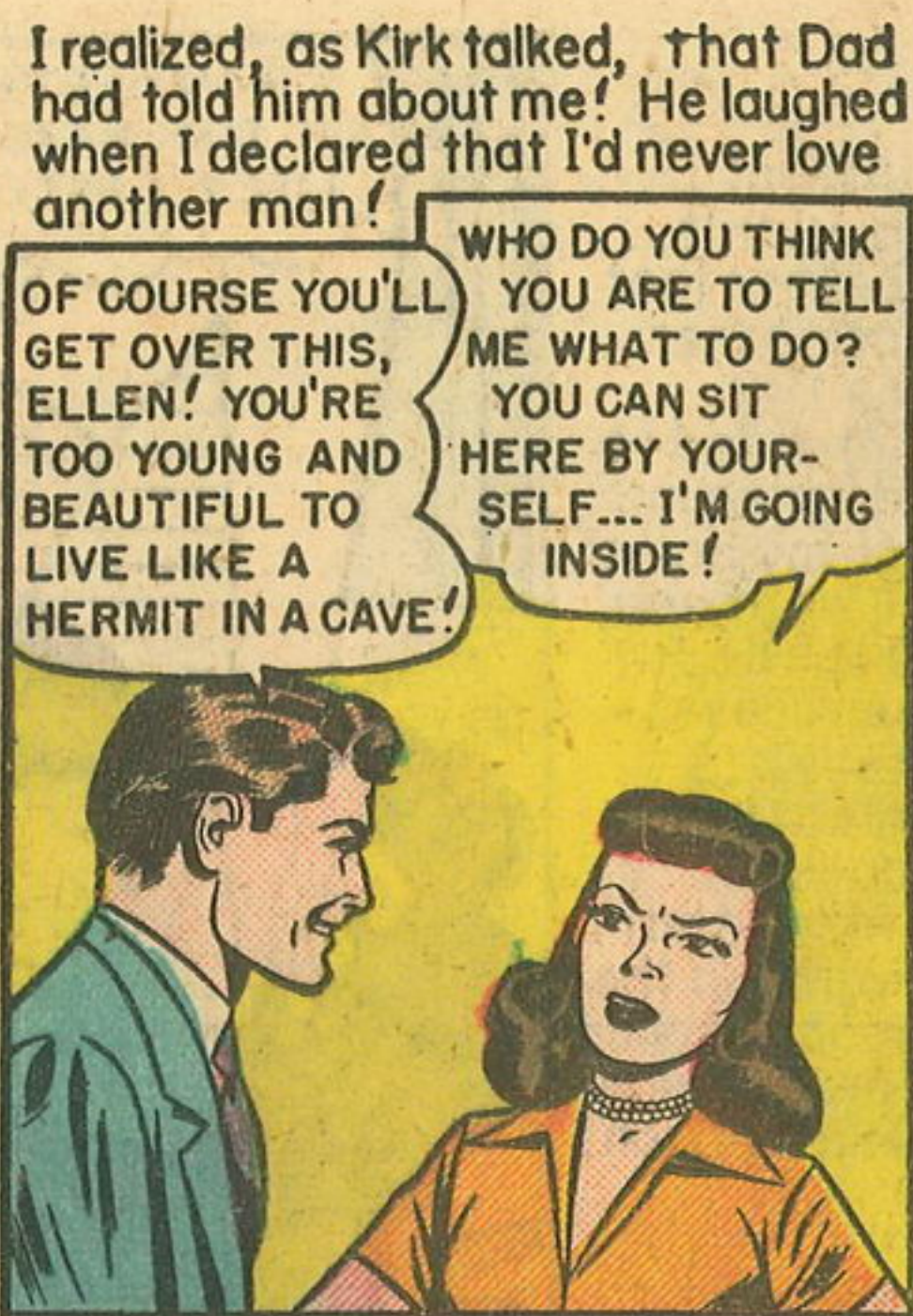
LET'S SKIP THE PAST, ELLEN! I'VE GOT SOME PLANS FOR THE FUTURE!



HELLO, ELLEN! JIM, GET INSIDE HERE AND HELP ME SET THE TABLE! ELLEN AND DIRK CAN RELAX UNTIL DINNER'S READY!

I'LL HELP YOU, MOTHER! WILL YOU EXCUSE ME, DIRK?

I CERTAINLY WON'T, ELLEN! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS FOR TOO LONG A TIME!



I realized, as Kirk talked, that Dad had told him about me! He laughed when I declared that I'd never love another man!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO? YOU CAN SIT HERE BY YOURSELF... I'M GOING INSIDE!



YOU WERE RIGHT, SIR! ELLEN'S DETERMINED TO SHUT HERSELF UP FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE IN THAT HOUSE! I WISH SHE DIDN'T OWN THE BLASTED THING!

SHE DOESN'T, DIRK! THE PLACE WAS GOING TO BE A WEDDING PRESENT FROM ME, BUT I COULD NEVER GET BOB TO SIGN THE TRANSFER! LEGALLY, THE PROPERTY IS STILL IN MY NAME!

The dinner Mom prepared was delicious as usual... but it might just as well have been sawdust and we wouldn't have noticed!



I'M A PERMANENT RESIDENT ALREADY, MR. CARROL! MY FIRM ASSIGNED ME TO THE REGIONAL OFFICE HERE IN TOWN, AND I'M GOING TO BUY A HOUSE AND STAY PUT FOR A WHILE!

BUT WHERE? ARE STILL DIFFICULT TO FIND!



I DON'T THINK I'LL HAVE MUCH TROUBLE! FOR INSTANCE, YOU DON'T NEED THAT HOUSE TO YOURSELF, ELLEN! MR. CARROL, WILL YOU SELL ME THE PLACE WHERE ELLEN IS NOW LIVING?

HE CAN'T SELL IT BECAUSE IT'S *MINE*! THAT WAS A STUPID JOKE, DIRK!

HE'S NOT JOKING, ELLEN! DIRK, IF YOU'LL COME DOWN TO MY OFFICE IN THE MORNING, WE'LL ARRANGE THE TRANSFER!

I hated my Father at that moment...but I hated Dirk Coleman twice as much! It was unbearable to think that I was going to lose the only possession that had any meaning for me!



I'LL GIVE YOU MY CHECK IN THE MORNING, SIR! THAT PROPERTY IS EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY THERE, MY BOY! IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, WE CAN CANCEL THE DEAL ANY TIME DURING THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS!

At first I couldn't believe that my father really intended to deprive me of my home! I wept and pleaded unsuccessfully.... I slept in my parents' home that night, but the room I'd once loved seemed like a prison!



I WON'T LET HIM DO IT! OH, WHY DID DIRK HAVE TO COME AND RUIN MY LIFE? I HATE HIM... I HATE THEM ALL!

DAD SAID DIRK COULD CANCEL THE DEAL WITHIN THIRTY DAYS IF HE ISN'T SATISFIED! HE WON'T... **UNLESS** I CAN MAKE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND! I HAVE A HUNCH MR. DIRK COLEMAN WILL BE SQUIRMING ON MY HOOK BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH HIM!



My plan was simple enough.... I had to make Dirk love me enough to give up the house, and I had an idea that it wouldn't be too difficult! I went back to my own home early the next morning....



I TIMED THIS PERFECTLY - IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!

I'M SORRY, ELLEN, I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURRY YOU!

HELLO, DIRK, I MEANT TO BE PACKED AND GONE BEFORE YOU ARRIVED!



DON'T BE SILLY, DIRK, IT'S **YOUR** HOME NOW! I'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS I GET THIS SUITCASE CLOSED! /F I GET IT CLOSED!

I'LL DO THAT FOR YOU, ELLEN! I FEEL LIKE A HEEL PUTTING YOU OUT OF YOUR HOME THIS WAY!



DO YOU THINK YOU'LL EVER STOP HATING ME FOR DOING THIS TO YOU, ELLEN? I-I'D LIKE TO BE FRIENDS AGAIN SOME DAY!

NOT A CHANCE OF THAT, YOU HEEL!

I DISLIKE LEAVING MY HOME, DIRK, BUT I DON'T **HATE** YOU! I'D LIKE TO PRETEND THIS HAD NEVER HAPPENED!



I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D LET ME DRIVE YOU HOME, ELLEN! MY CAR IS OUTSIDE!

YOU'RE VERY KIND, DIRK! THEN PERHAPS IF I ASK NICELY, MOM WILL INVITE YOU TO DINNER... BUT THIS TIME IT WILL BE BETTER! I WAS BEASTLY LAST NIGHT! DIRK, CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?

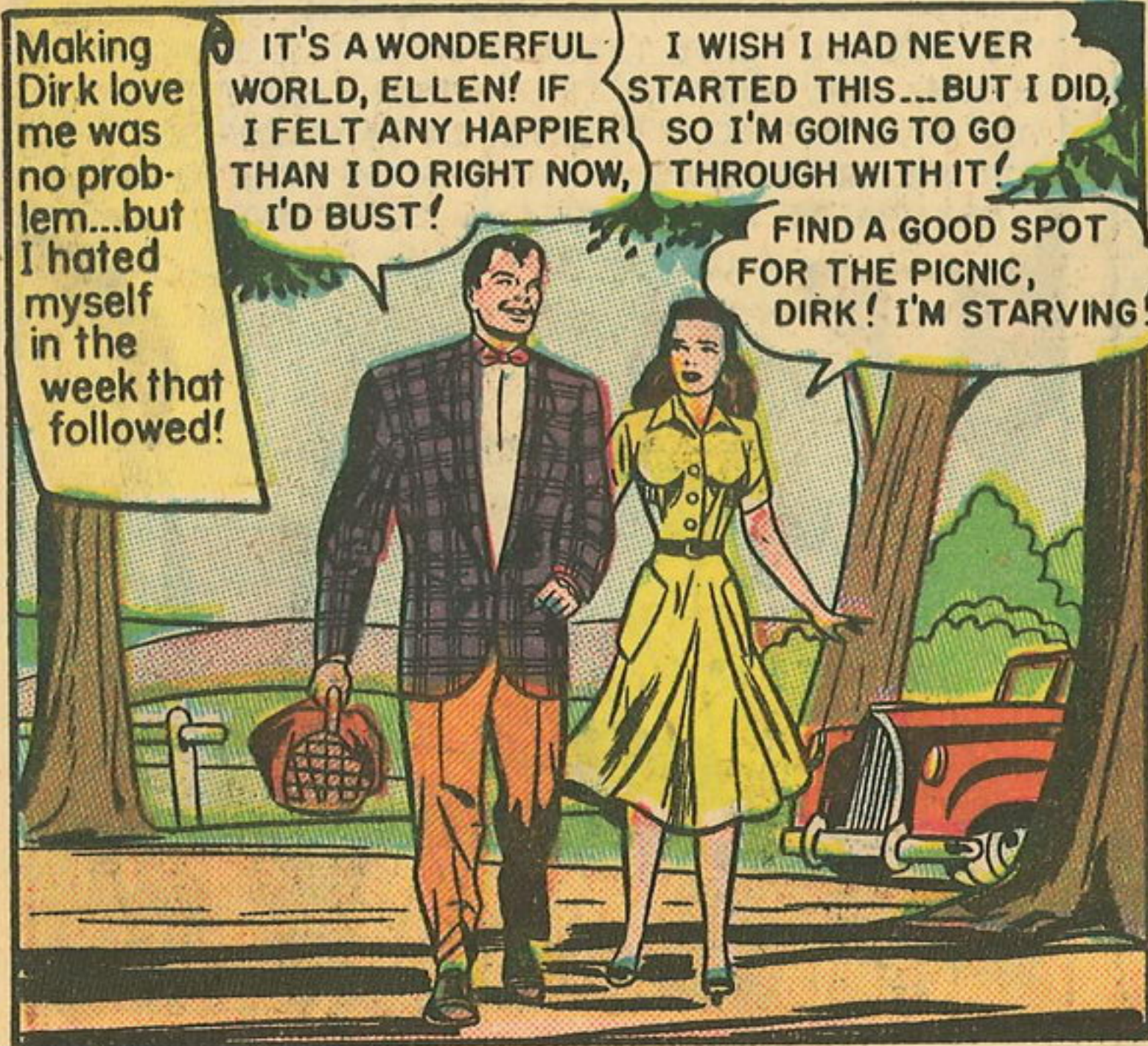
My line worked like a charm! Mother and Dad were amazed but hopeful when they left for a movie after dinner... leaving me with a clear field and a sinkful of dirty dishes!



I USED TO DREAM WE'D BE DOING THIS TOGETHER SOME DAY, ELLEN! THEN YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH BOB AND I HAD TO TAKE A BACK SEAT!

THAT'S OVER, DIRK! WE HAVE TO THINK OF THE FUTURE NOW... AND, THE MORE I THINK OF IT, THE BETTER I LIKE IT!

UNTAMED LOVE



Making Dirk love me was no problem...but I hated myself in the week that followed!

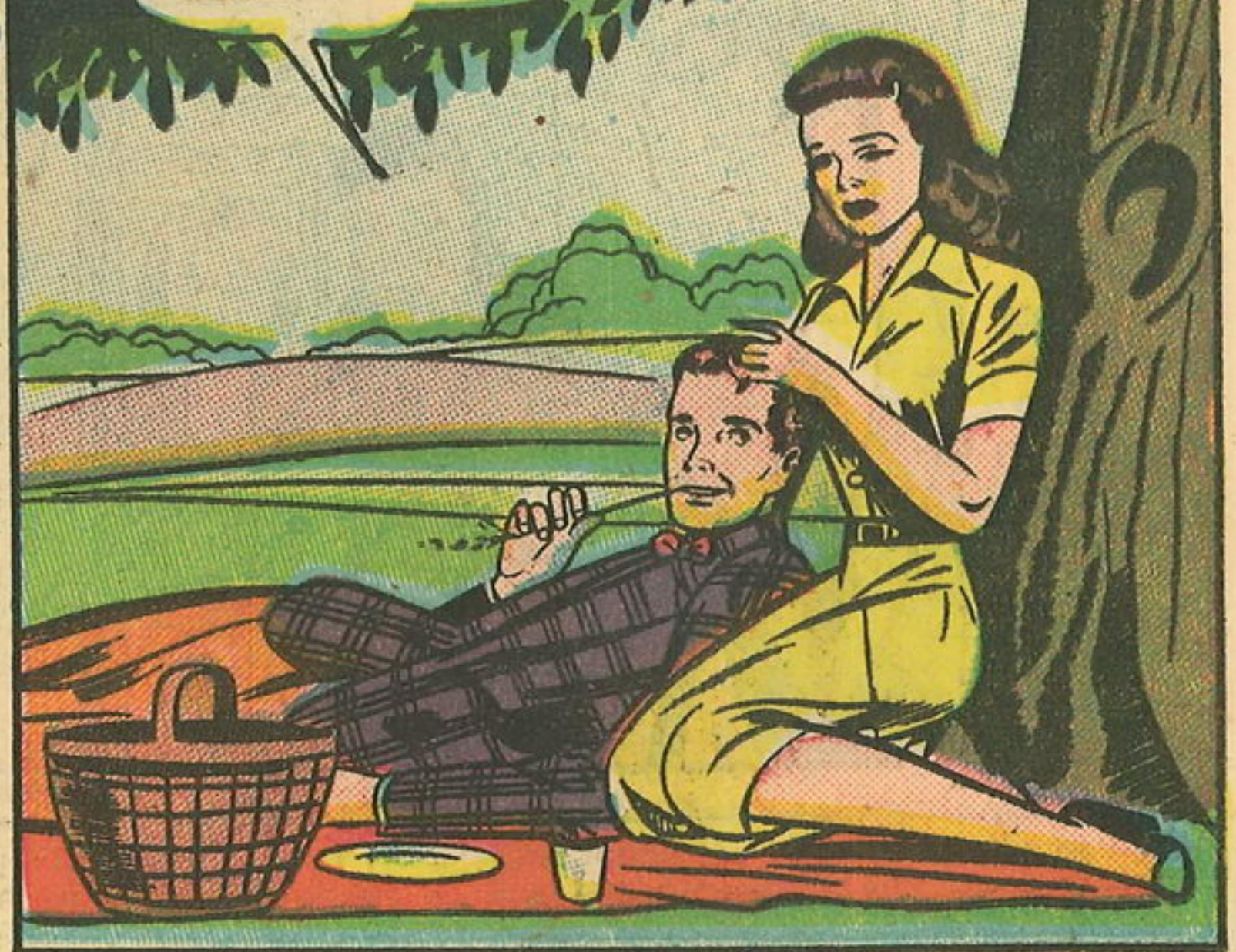
IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD, ELLEN! IF I FELT ANY HAPPIER THAN I DO RIGHT NOW, I'D BUST!

I WISH I HAD NEVER STARTED THIS...BUT I DID, SO I'M GOING TO GO THROUGH WITH IT!

FIND A GOOD SPOT FOR THE PICNIC, DIRK! I'M STARVING!

THAT WAS WONDERFUL FOOD, ELLEN! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND A GIRL WHO WAS BEAUTIFUL AND A GOOD COOK BESIDES! ARE YOU AS HAPPY AS I AM, ELLEN?

I WOULD BE, DIRK, EXCEPT FOR ONE THING! I KNOW IT'S SILLY BUT I CAN'T HELP IT!



WHAT IS IT, DARLING? I'D DO ANYTHING IN THE WORLD IF IT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY!

IT'S THE HOUSE, DIRK! I CAN'T HELP FEELING HURT AT THE WAY YOU AND DAD IGNORED MY FEELINGS AND MOVED ME OUT! IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT... I MIGHT FEEL DIFFERENTLY ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS!

It was that simple! I knew from the look in Dirk's eyes that he'd get me the moon if I asked for it!

THE HOUSE IS YOURS, DARLING! YOUR DAD AND I COOKED UP THAT DEAL BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WASTE YOUR LIFE MOONING AROUND! I THINK YOU'RE CURED NOW, ELLEN!

I AM, DIRK! YOU'VE MADE ME COMPLETELY HAPPY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME! OH, DARLING---

THIS WASN'T PART OF MY PLAN... BUT IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE A MAN'S ARMS AROUND ME AGAIN! I MUST STOP... I MUST!



I knew it was insane! How could I love Dirk when I hated him with all my heart?

DON'T, DIRK, PLEASE! THIS IS ALL WRONG... LET ME GO!

I-I LOST MY HEAD, DARLING! I LOVE YOU SO, ELLEN!

WE'D BETTER GO HOME, DIRK! YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT YOU PROMISED YOU'D GIVE ME THE HOUSE BACK, HAVE YOU?

OF COURSE NOT, ELLEN, BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW! I'LL GO DOWN TO YOUR DAD'S OFFICE IN THE MORNING AND TELL HIM I'VE CHANGED MY MIND! IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY, THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT!

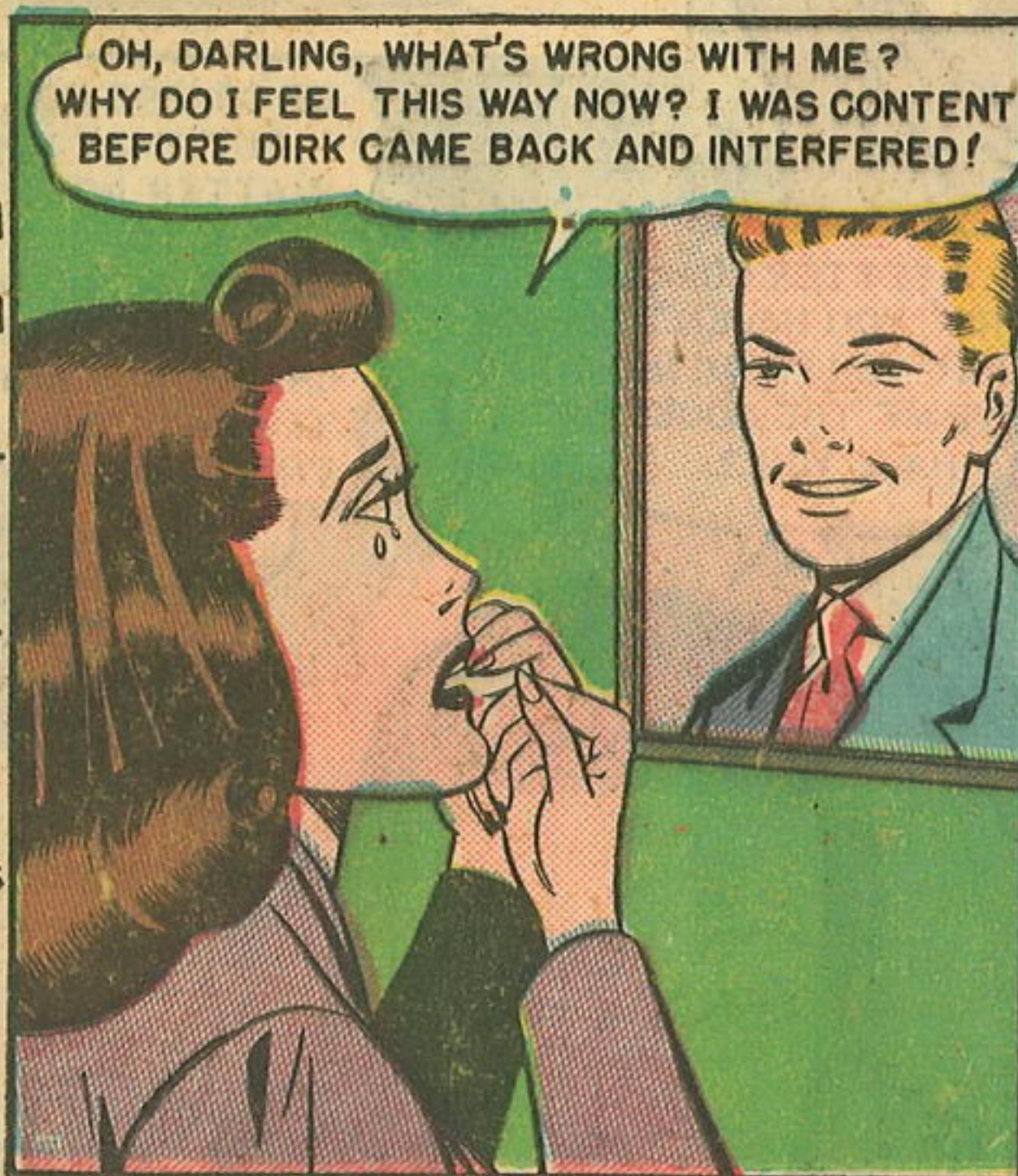


UNTAMED LOVE

Dirk kept his word... The next morning Dad called and told me I could take back my home whenever I wanted it! He sounded angry but I didn't care! Dirk was on hand to help once more...



So I regained my "Shrine", as Dad called it, the home I valued above everything else on earth! But somehow it wasn't the same! Bob's picture no longer filled my needs as it had in the past!



WHY CAN'T I FORGET? I ONLY KISSED HIM TO GET BACK MY HOME... AND NOW I KEEP REMEMBERING HIS ARMS AROUND ME! I PLANNED TO TRAP HIM BUT I'M THE ONE WHO WAS HURT! I'M SO MISERABLE!



UNTAMED LOVE

My recently discovered love for Dirk made it impossible for me to continue living in my house! Once my only reason for living, it had become the symbol of my unhappiness!



I'M GLAD YOU CAME, ELLEN! I'VE GOT THE PAPERS READY ON YOUR PROPERTY!

DON'T BOTHER, DAD! I'M SORRY I'VE CAUSED EVERYONE SO MUCH TROUBLE, BUT I DON'T WANT THE HOUSE ANY MORE!

I HOPE THIS IS THE ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS, ELLEN! HAVE YOU FINALLY ADJUSTED YOURSELF TO BOB'S DEATH?

YES, DAD, BUT I'M MORE MISERABLE THAN EVER! I LIVED IN A DREAM WORLD UNTIL DIRK CAME AND STOPPED THAT FOOLISHNESS! NOW EVERYTHING IS A MESS!



GO ON, CHILD, FINISH IT! WHAT HAS DIRK GOT TO DO WITH YOUR UNHAPPINESS?

EVERYTHING! I THOUGHT I WAS TRAPPING HIM ON TO GET BACK MY HOME! I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS TRAPPED! I LOVE DIRK BUT HE MUST HATE ME AFTER WHAT I DID! OH, DAD, WHAT WILL I DO?



I'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO, DARLING! MARRY ME AND WE'LL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER! DON'T RUN, ELLEN... YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE ME NOW!

DIRK! Y-YOU MEAN, CONTEMPTIBLE EAVES-DROPPER! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME HE WAS HERE, DAD?

I DESERVE SOME FUN OUT OF LIFE TOO, DON'T I? GO GET HER, DIRK!



Perhaps I should have tried to get away, if only to save my pride... but I met him more than half-way!

I'VE PRAYED FOR THIS MOMENT, DARLING!

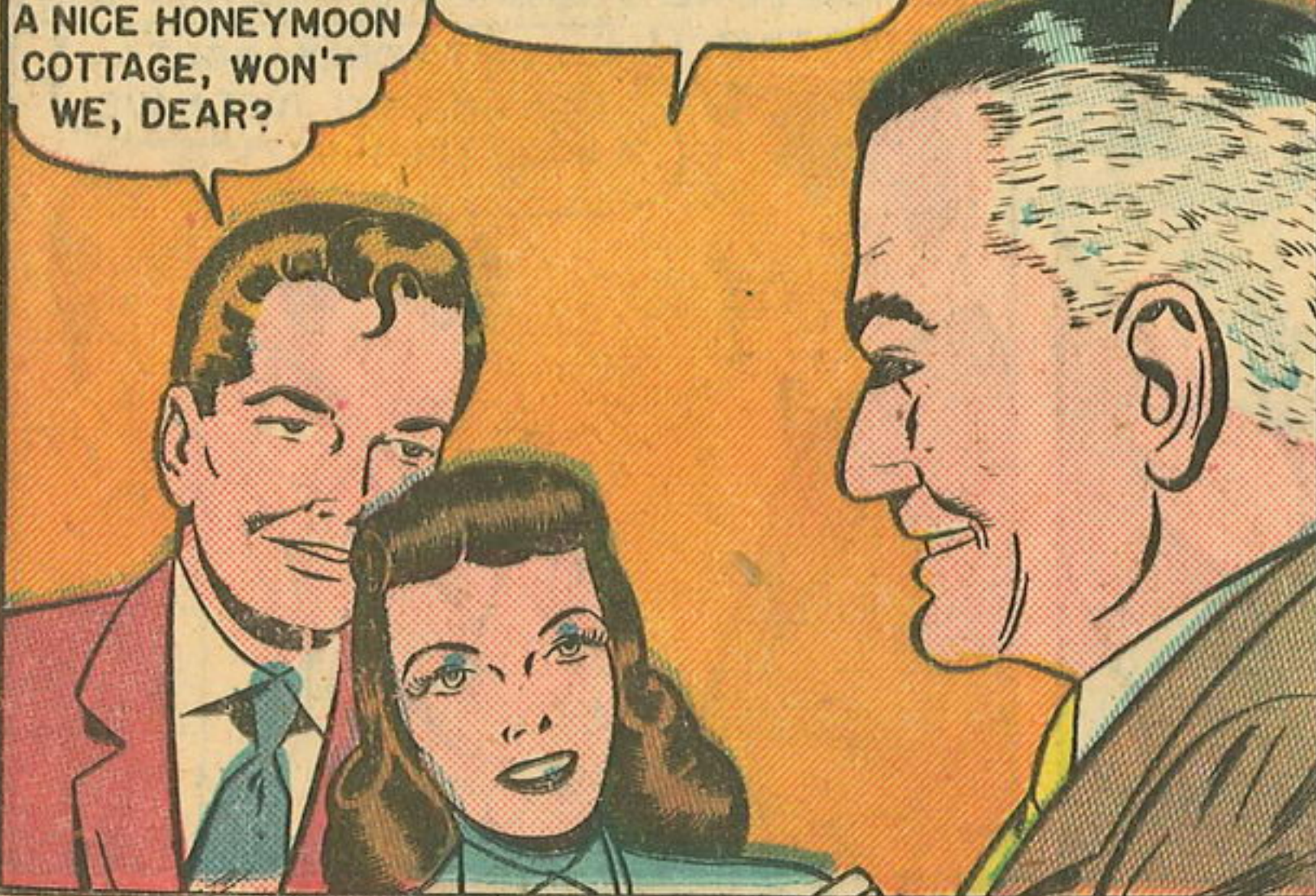
DON'T TALK, DIRK, JUST HOLD ME CLOSE!



CHANGE MY ORDER FOR THE BACHELOR APARTMENT, MR. CARROL! ELLEN AND I WILL WANT A NICE HONEYMOON COTTAGE, WON'T WE, DEAR?

CANCEL BOTH ORDERS, DAD! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY HOME... NOTHING THAT A HUSBAND CAN'T FIX!

EXACTLY WHAT I WAS THINKING, ELLEN! GOD BLESS YOU BOTH!

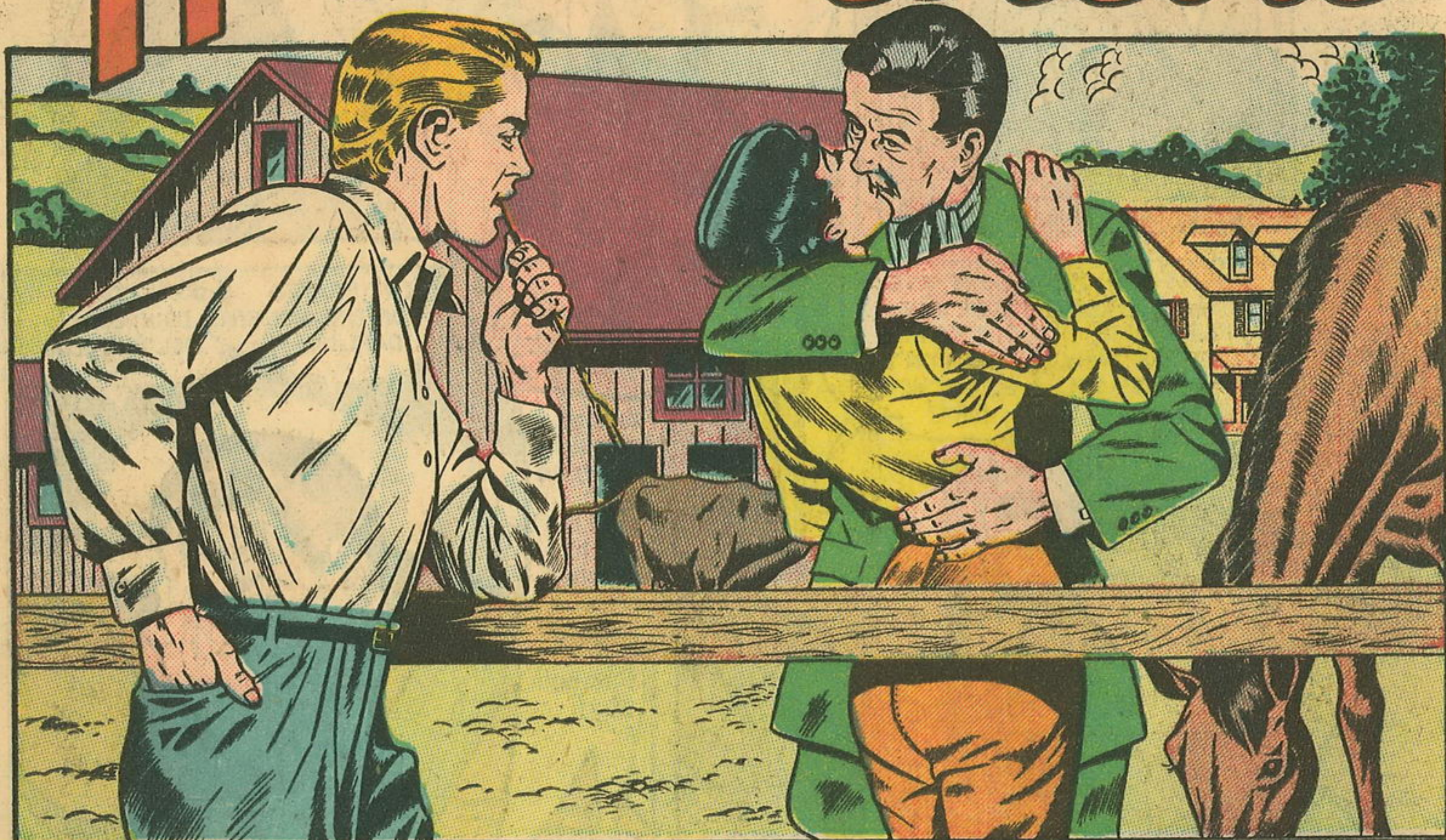


...And so it was that the home which had meant misery and empty longing became the scene of a living love, a place for laughter, not tears! I realized how foolish I'd been to live in the past instead of accepting the future with faith and the hope we should never lose!



DEVOTION TO A MAN WHO COULD NEVER SATISFY THE SOUL-SEARING HUNGER OF HER LONELY HEART, FEAR OF THE TUMULTUOUS EXCITEMENT SHE FELT IN ANOTHER MAN'S ARMS, AND HATRED OF A LOVELY YOUNG GIRL WHO WAS A THREAT TO HER STAKE IN LOVE... AND ALMOST TOO LATE, BEAUTIFUL NITA JASON DISCOVERED THAT THESE WERE THE MAIN INGREDIENTS OF HER

Treachery Desire



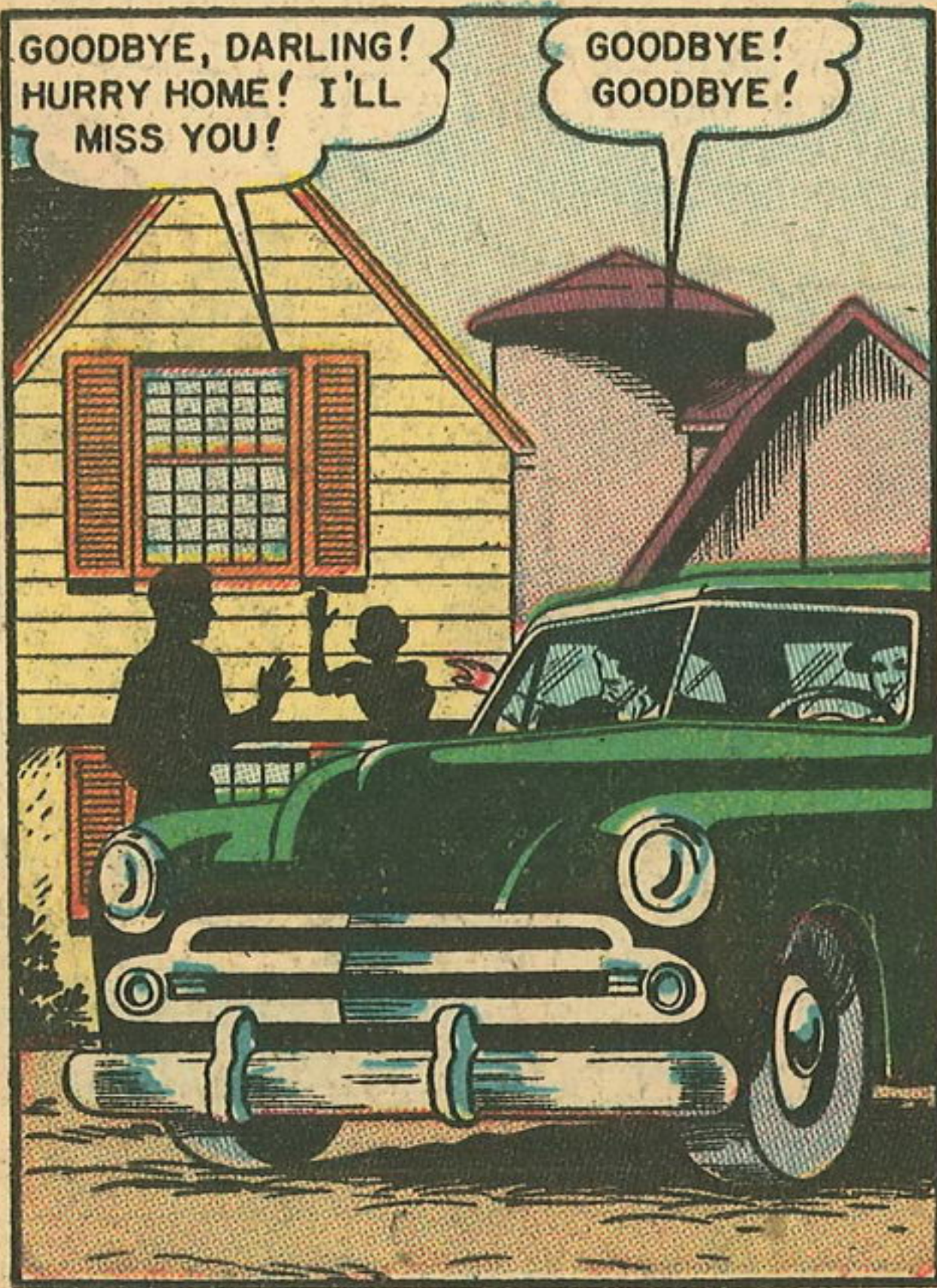
Even though I had become an orphan at eight, my life had not been unhappy! My guardian, Harry Jason, had more than made up for the loss of my parents, and our life together on Harry's prosperous Iowa farm was exciting and happy! Only an occasional disappointment marred our pleasant, busy routine!



Tod Barker was the son of Harry's best friend, and for years had spent every summer with us, helping out on the farm and studying Harry's methods of managing the state's largest farm!



UNTAMED LOVE



GOODBYE, DARLING!
HURRY HOME! I'LL
MISS YOU!

GOODBYE!
GOODBYE!



I'M GOING TO
MISS HIM
TERRIBLY!

I'D BE HAPPY TO
BE HIS STAND-IN,
NITA!



THAT'S SWEET, TOD, BUT I'M
AFRAID NO ONE CAN EVER
TAKE HIS PLACE IN MY
HEART! SINCE MY FOLKS
DIED, HE'S BEEN FATHER,
MOTHER, FRIEND... EVERY-
THING I'VE NEEDED!

THAT LEAVES THE ROLE
OF HUSBAND TO BE
FILLED, I BELIEVE! MAY
I OFFER MY SERVICES
AGAIN...FOR THE
UMPTENTH TIME?

Always under the
gay and easy ban-
ter with Tod, there
was a flicker of
excitement, a quick
flush of breathless-
ness, which I so
easily brushed
aside in favor of
the all-encompas-
sing emotion I felt
for my guardian!



NOW YOU'RE TEASING ME AGAIN!

THE DAY YOU REALIZE I'M NOT
TEASING YOU IS THE DAY YOU'LL
REACH WOMANHOOD, MY
DEAR LITTLE IMP!

But it was no use!
Tod could not fill
my need for Harry,
and the days with-
out him seemed
unending! My
impatience and
loneliness made
me turn inward
for consolation
for there was *no*
one to take his
place!

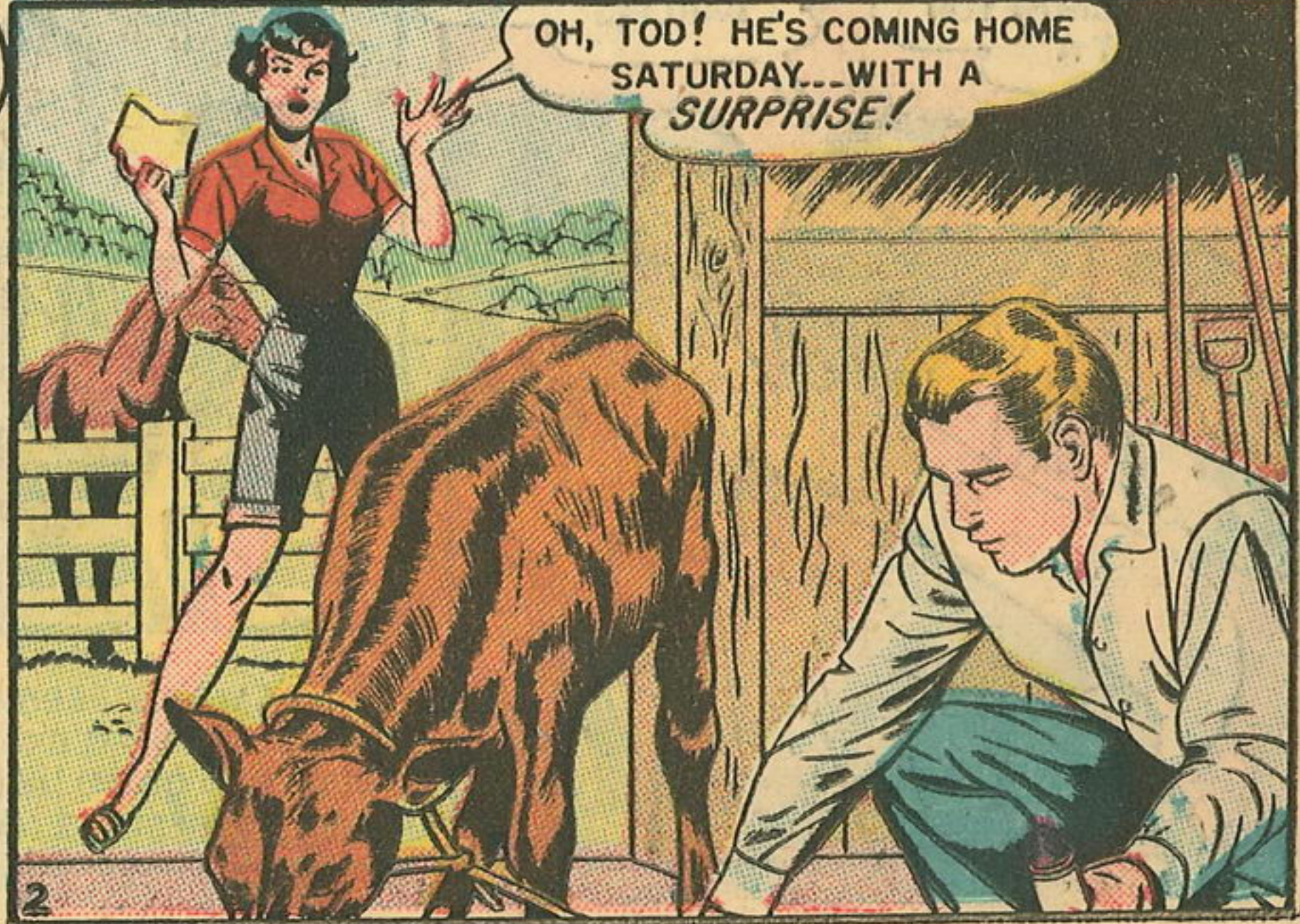


THIS IS THE LAST TRIP HE'LL
TAKE WITHOUT ME! I JUST
CAN'T BE HAPPY WITHOUT
HIM!

Finally, three
weeks later!



"ARRIVING SATURDAY
NIGHT! ARRANGE
WELCOME
PARTY! AM
BRINGING YOU
A WONDERFUL
SURPRISE!
LOVE, HARRY!"



OH, TOD! HE'S COMING HOME
SATURDAY...WITH A
SURPRISE!

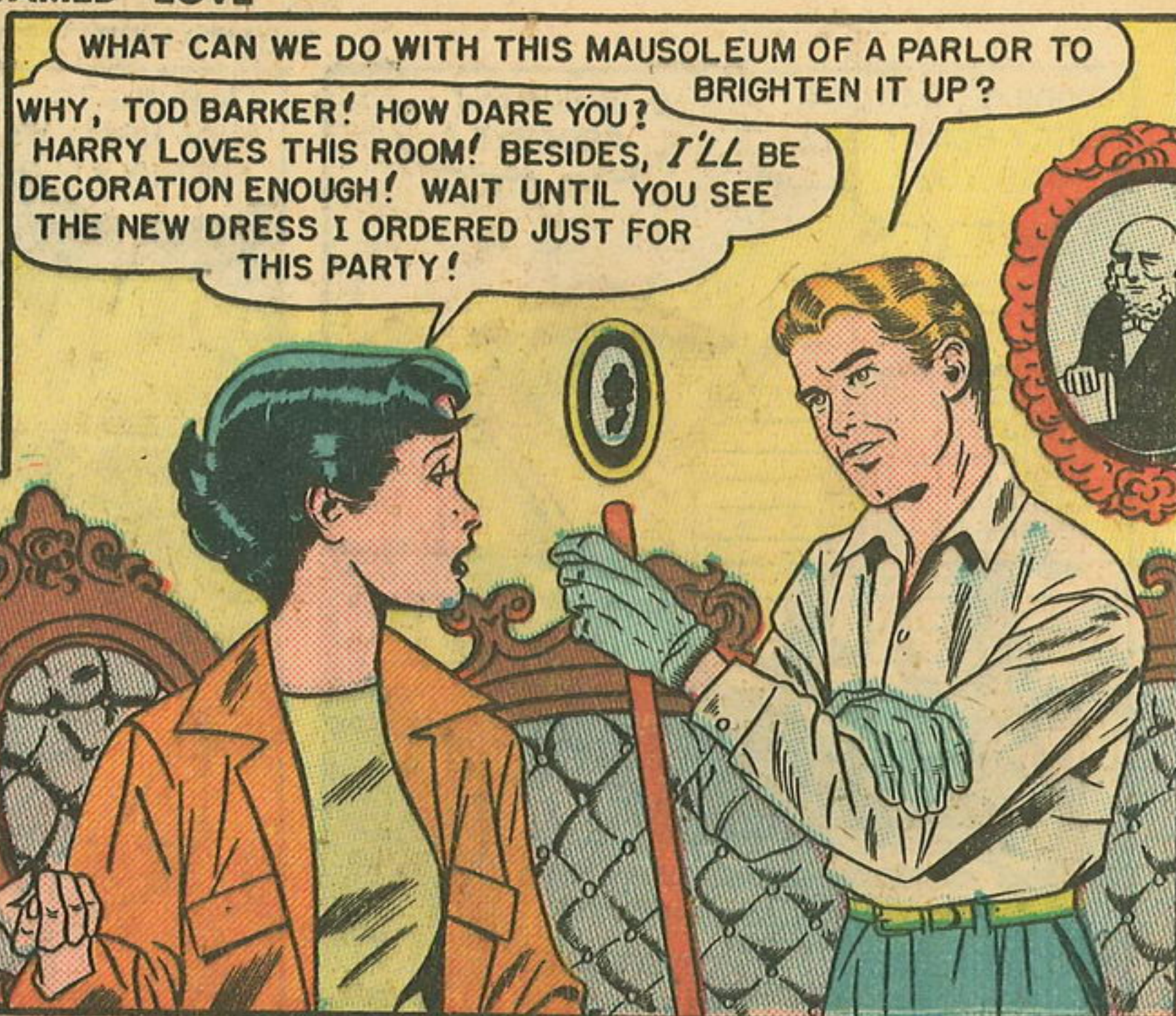
UNTAMED LOVE



ISN'T IT WONDERFUL? WHAT COULD IT BE? AND WHY A WELCOME PARTY? HE DOESN'T LIKE *PARTIES*! I WONDER...

WE'LL KNOW THE ANSWERS SATURDAY NIGHT! NOW HELP ME FINISH HERE, AND I'LL LEND MY MIGHTY BRAIN TO YOUR PARTY PLANS!

I lived in a cloud of expectation through the next few days! Tod and I neglected our chores in favor of the fun of planning the party!



WHAT CAN WE DO WITH THIS MAUSOLEUM OF A PARLOR TO BRIGHTEN IT UP?

WHY, TOD BARKER! HOW DARE YOU? HARRY LOVES THIS ROOM! BESIDES, I'LL BE DECORATION ENOUGH! WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THE NEW DRESS I ORDERED JUST FOR THIS PARTY!

Saturday night...



WELL? DO YOU THINK HE'LL LIKE IT?

HE? OF COURSE! I LIKE IT TOO, NITA! YOU'RE EXQUISITE!

Suddenly the door flew open, and there he was!



HARRY! OH I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HOME!

HELLO! NITA BABY, BEAUTIFUL AS EVER, I SEE!



WHAT'S MY SURPRISE? OH--I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD BROUGHT A GUEST!

THAT'S MY SURPRISE, DARLING!



NITA, THIS IS MY WIFE, JANET! WE WERE MARRIED LAST WEEK IN NEW YORK!

Harry's words seemed to come from a great distance, and though my mind refused to grasp their meaning, my heart understood only too well!



I HOPE WE'LL BECOME VERY GOOD FRIENDS, NITA!

YES--YES, OF COURSE! UH--WILL YOU EXCUSE ME PLEASE? I'LL TELL COOK YOU'VE ARRIVED!

UNTAMED LOVE

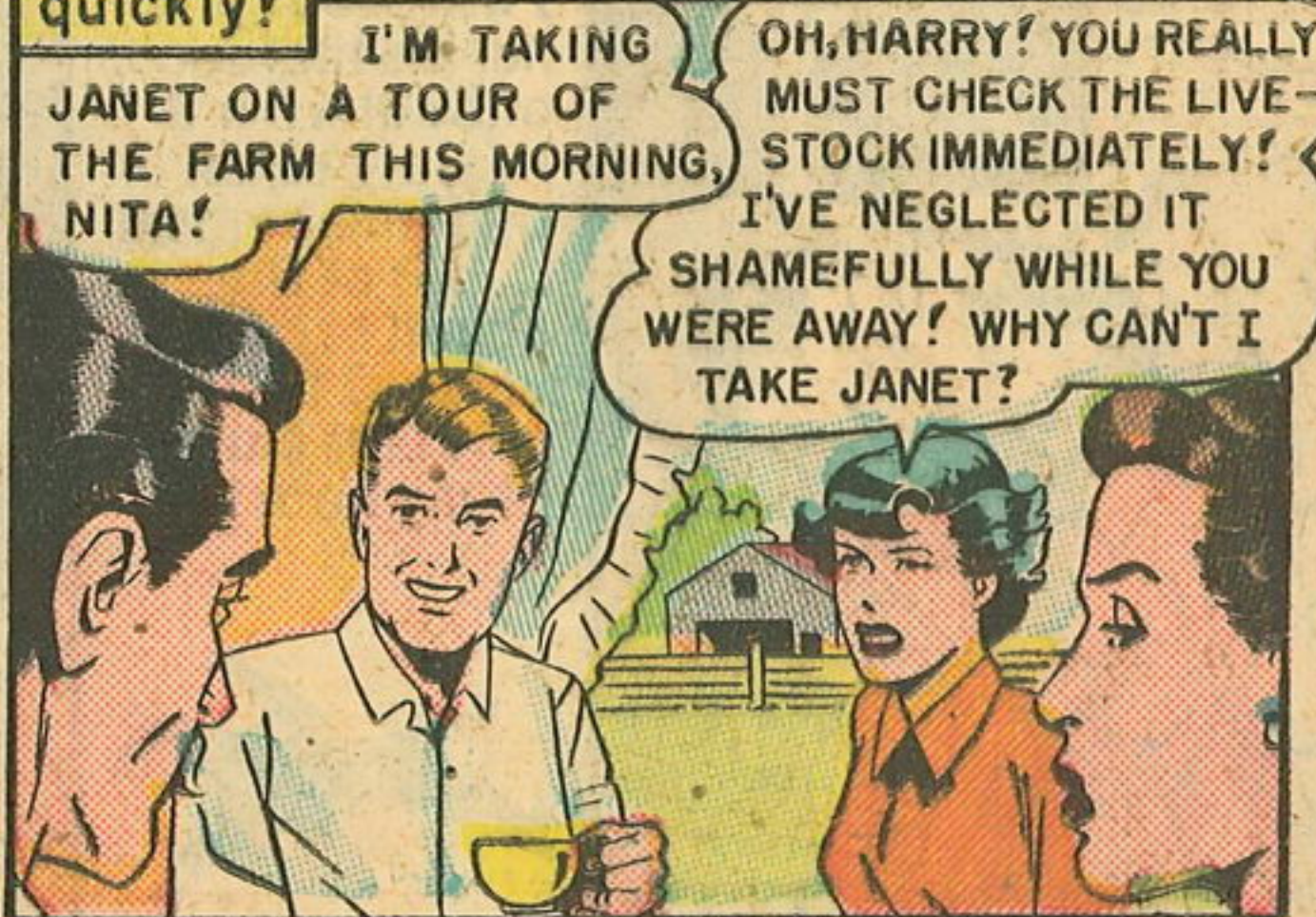
But I didn't go to the kitchen! I went out into the cool night hoping I could clear away the confused hysteria I felt mounting within me! I was seething with a strange miasmic turbulence when Tod quietly joined me!



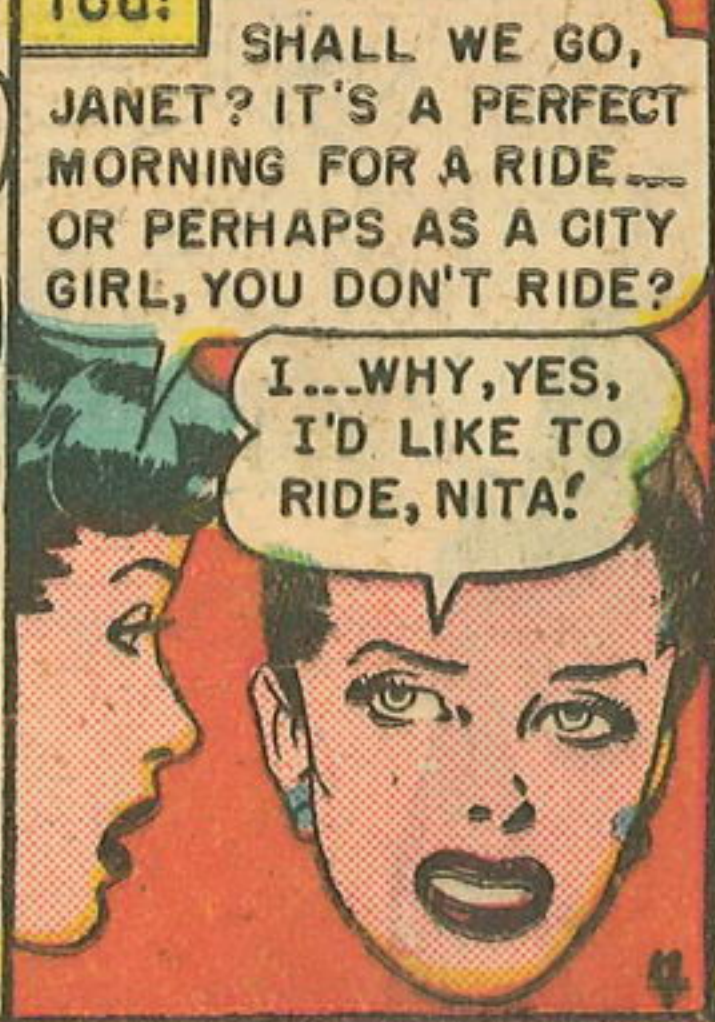
From the depths of my desperation came the answer, at least for *this* moment! I closed my eyes and dropped to the floor in the best imitation of a swoon I could muster!



I had won! Harry stayed beside my bed until I could no longer stay awake! But in the morning as I joined the others at breakfast, I could see that Janet had again usurped Harry's attentions! I callously waited for the next opportunity to continue my campaign! And it came quickly!



Harry was annoyed, then acquiescent! I couldn't fathom the expression in Janet's serene gaze... and I didn't dare look at Tod!



UNTAMED LOVE

We went directly to the stables! I knew Janet wanted to say something to me but I kept far enough ahead to avoid conversation!



BRADY, WE'RE GOING FOR A RIDE! SADDLE UP BONNIE FOR ME, AND RED FOR MRS. --- MISS JANET! AND HURRY!

BUT NITA! YOU KNOW THAT OLD RED IS THE MEANEST CRITTER! NOBODY'S BEEN ABLE TO RIDE THAT HOSS SINCE HE THREW...



I'M NOT ASKING YOU FOR YOUR OPINION, BRADY! WILL YOU SADDLE THEM --- OR SHALL I?

O.K., MISS JASON! BUT I AIN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS!



Brady disappeared into the stables! Suddenly I felt Janet's arm on mine!

WHY, NITA! WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO RIDE THAT HORSE?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'VE RIDDEN RED MANY TIMES! BRADY IS AN OLD FOOL! WHY? ARE YOU AFRAID?



I'D LIKE TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU, NITA! I LOVE HARRY VERY MUCH TOO!

DO YOU? NO ONE CAN LOVE HIM LIKE I DO! I'M EVERYTHING TO HIM!



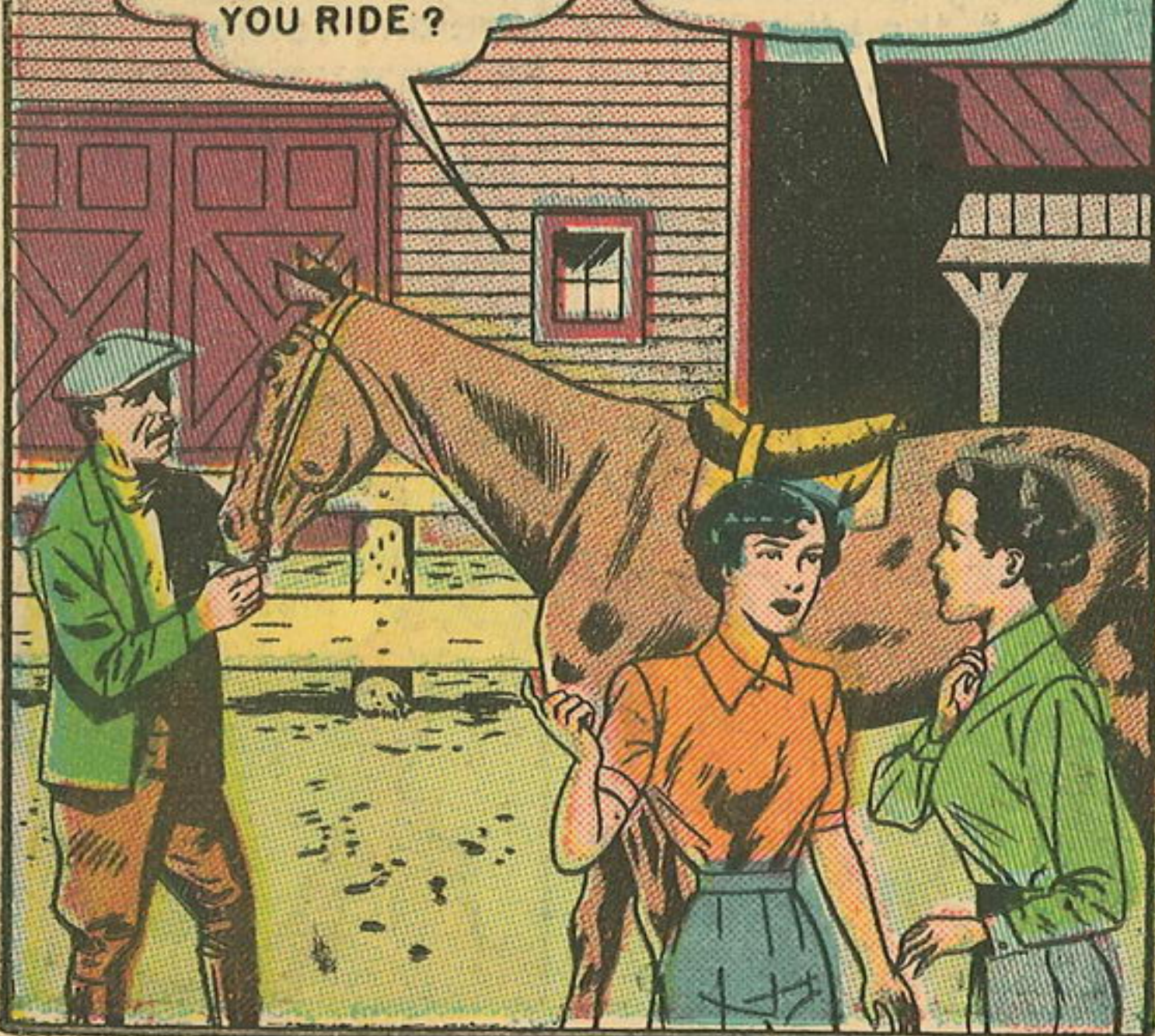
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!

BUT I AM HERE!



HERE HE IS! WILL YOU RIDE?

YES! OF COURSE!

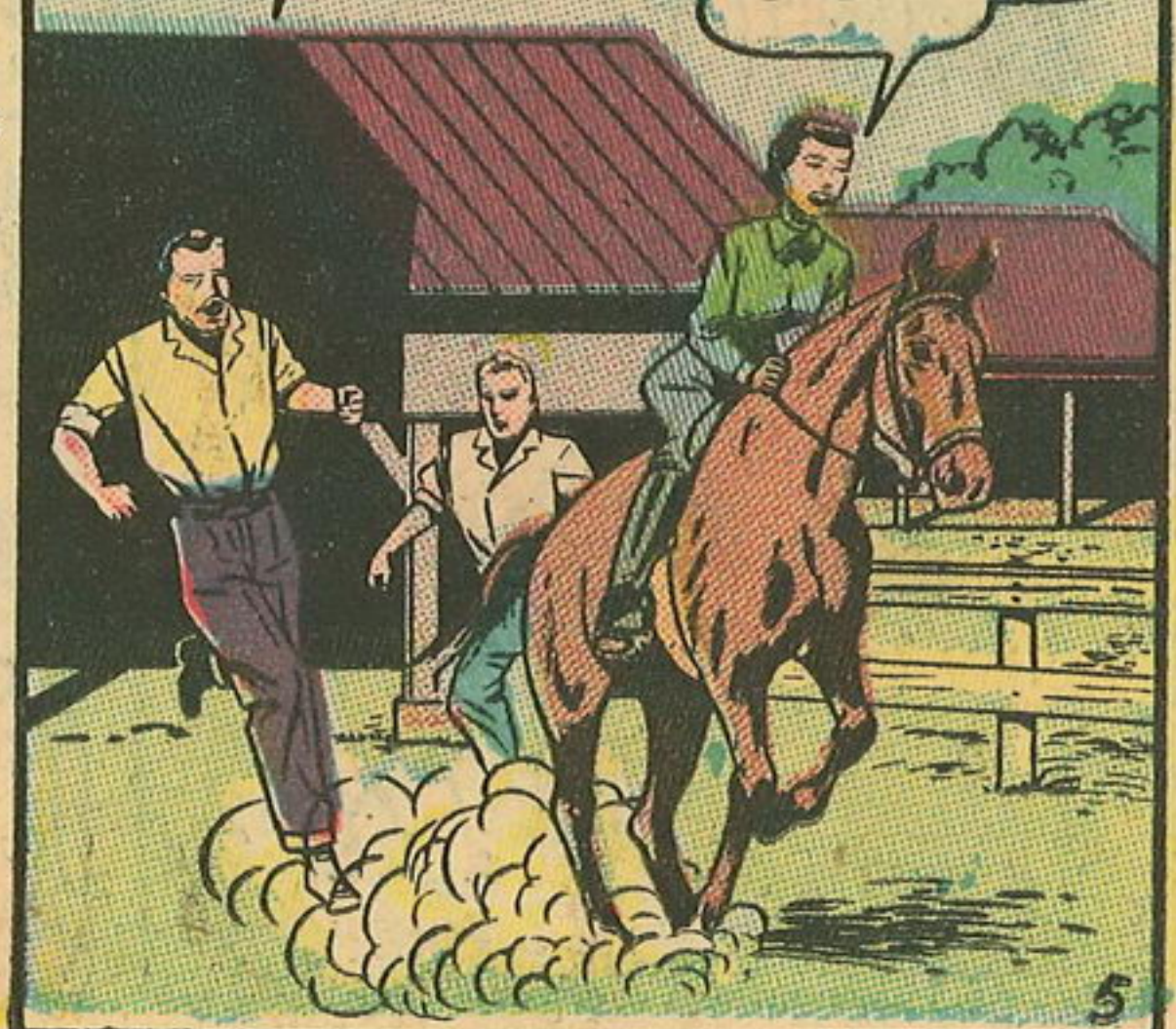


I watched Janet handle the furious animal with a mixture of terror and amazement --- but at the sound of Harry's voice, I felt cold fear clutch at my heart!



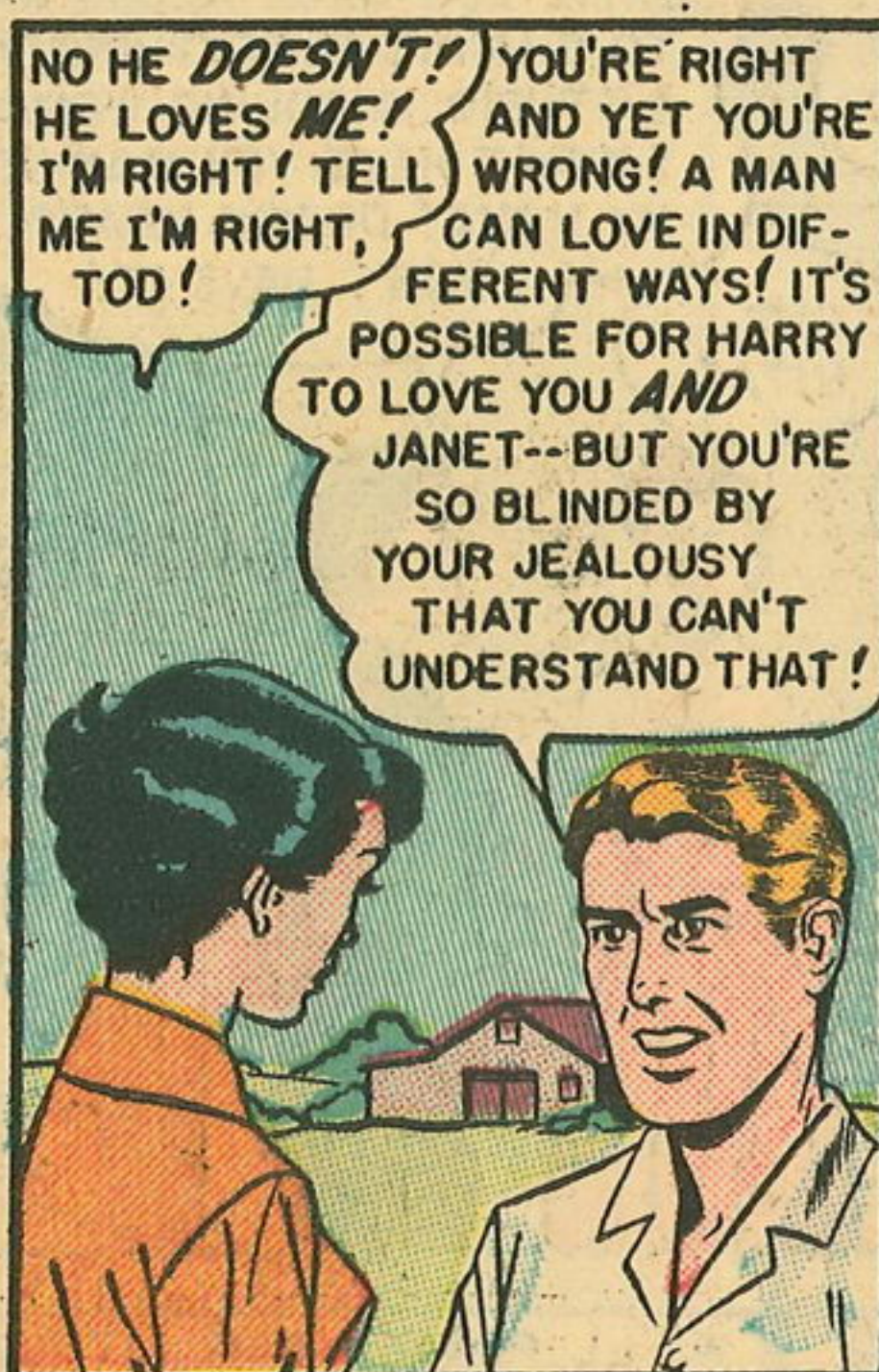
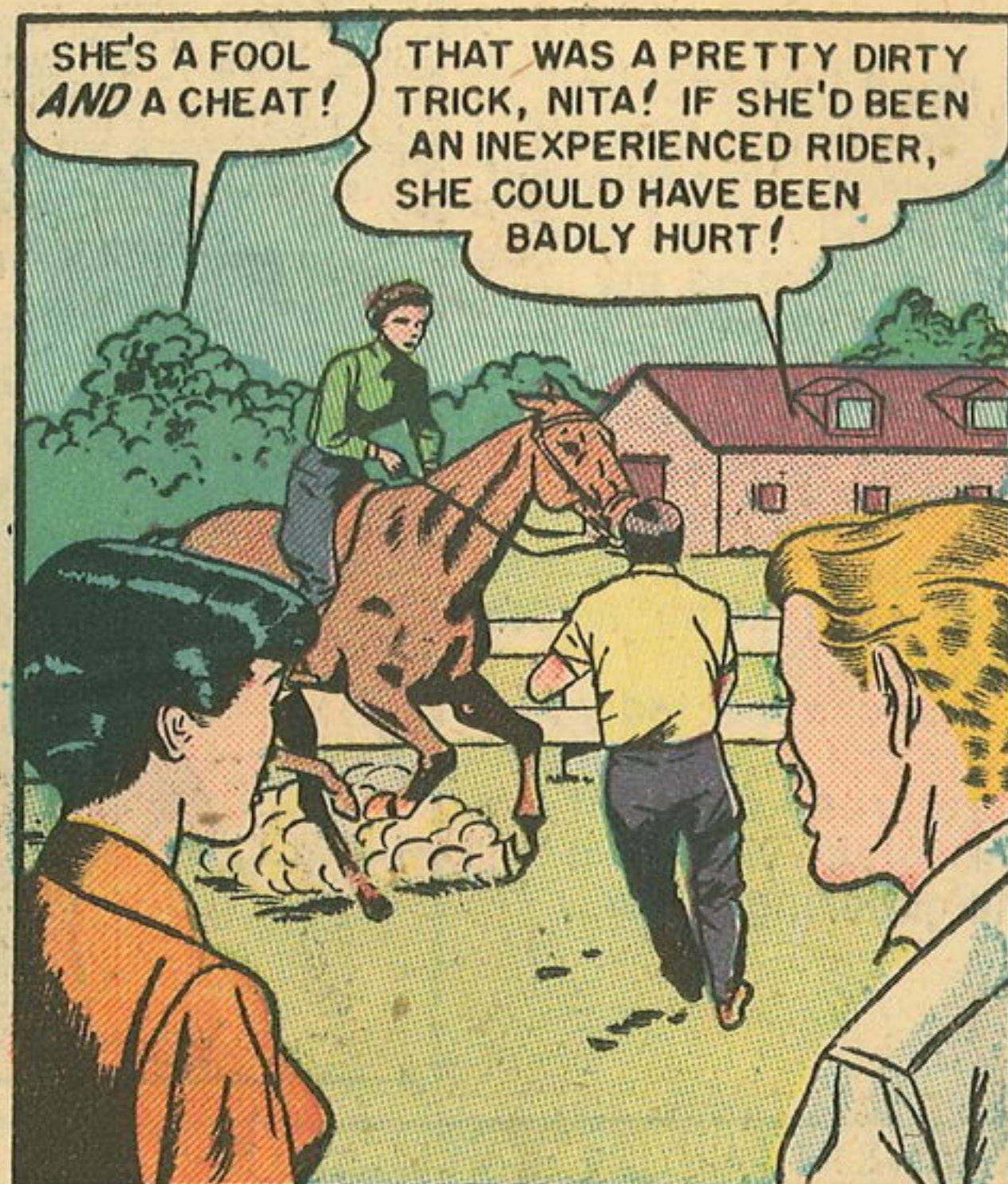
JANET, DARLING! BE CAREFUL! WATCH OUT!

DON'T WORRY, DEAR! I FORGOT TO TELL NITA THAT I GREW UP ON A RANCH! I CAN HANDLE THIS BABY!



UNTAMED LOVE

We watched breathlessly while Janet struggled to bring Red under control! She was an excellent horsewoman and in a few minutes she had turned the mean-tempered roan into a docile lamb!



UNTAMED LOVE

I lived in a vacuum of frustration through the weeks that followed! More and more I saw Janet usurping my place with Harry, and I was helpless to change it! But the anger within me had reached an impossible level and I longed for the release that an igniting incident would allow me! It came unexpectedly! Late one afternoon as I returned from an overnight visit to a neighboring farm...



WHY, WE'RE PAINTING AND REDECORATING THIS ROOM! I THOUGHT IT NEEDED SOME BRIGHTENING UP AND NEW FURNISHINGS SO I...

WELL, YOU CAN JUST STOP IT! I LIKE IT THE WAY IT IS AND SO DOES HARRY!

WE GOT ALONG BEAUTIFULLY UNTIL YOU CAME ALONG WANTING TO CHANGE EVERYTHING! YOU'RE A STUPID MEDDLING WOMAN AND I WON'T HAVE YOU MAKING OVER MY HOME! DO YOU HEAR? I WON'T HAVE IT!

BUT, NITA!

NITA! YOU APOLOGIZE THIS MINUTE! I'M ASHAMED OF YOU!

I DON'T CARE! I WON'T

APOLOGIZE... I **WON'T!** SHE HAD NO RIGHT TO TURN OUR HOME UPSIDE DOWN! SHE HAS NO RIGHT HERE AT ALL!

NITA, I'VE PUT UP WITH YOUR RECENT BEHAVIOR BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE FAIR AND TO GIVE YOU TIME TO ACCEPT JANET AS MY WIFE! BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH! AS MY WIFE, JANET IS NOW MISTRESS OF THIS HOUSE AND SHE MAY DO ANYTHING TO IT SHE LIKES!

WE'LL FORGET THIS LITTLE UNPLEASANTNESS, BUT IT MUST NOT HAPPEN AGAIN! I EXPECT YOU TO BEHAVE YOURSELF, NITA, OR... WELL, LET'S FORGET IT!

OR *WHAT*, HARRY? WHY DIDN'T YOU FINISH IT? OR I CAN LEAVE? IS *THAT* IT?

I was stunned with a crushing, bleak despair! It had finally happened! Once before in my life, I had known this agonizing loneliness but then, Harry with his love and warmth had made me forget! And *now*, with the irony fate often displays, it was Harry who could make me remember!

HE'S LOST TO ME! HE LOVES JANET AND HE'S PUSHED ME ASIDE! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO ME!



UNTAMED LOVE

IT'S THE ONLY WAY! EVERYONE WOULD BE MISERABLE IF I STAYED!



There was nothing to do except to run away! I could not live here with the torture of knowing I was unloved and unwanted! That night, after everyone was asleep, I made my way quietly through the dear familiar rooms, my heart twisted with anguish!

Suddenly...

GOING SOMEWHERE?



OH! YOU FRIGHTENED ME, TOD! I THOUGHT EVERYONE WAS SLEEPING! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

WAITING FOR YOU! AFTER I HEARD ABOUT THIS AFTERNOON, I KIND OF THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DO SOMETHING FOOLISH!



IT'S *NOT* FOOLISH! IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN DO! I'LL GO AWAY, AND NEVER COME BACK!

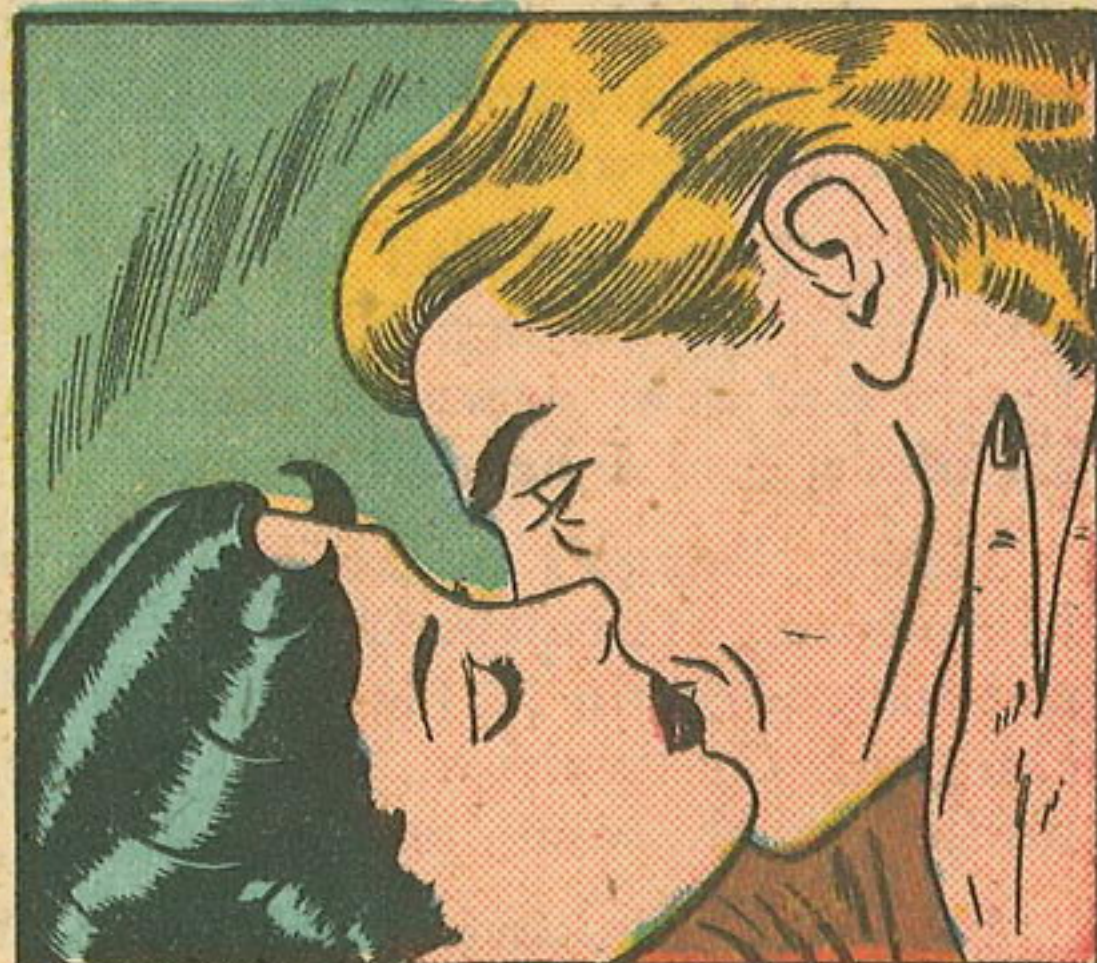
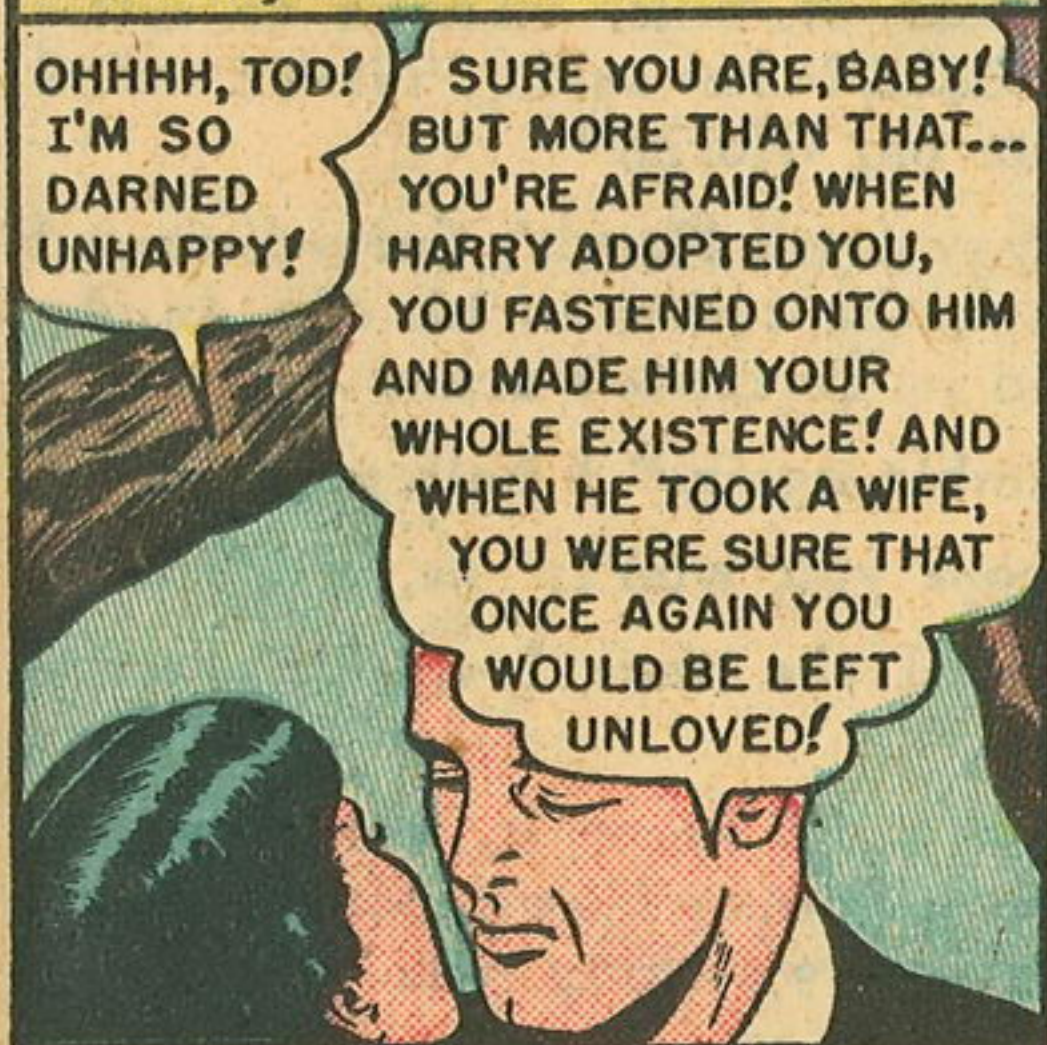
But the moment Tod touched me, my thin veneer of courage vanished, and all my bitter heartbreak broke through! He held me close, and in the sweet comforting circle of his arms, my sorrow became eased!

YOU'VE BEEN SO AFRAID BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T BELIEVED ANYONE ELSE COULD LOVE YOU! BUT I LOVE YOU, NITA! NOT LIKE HARRY! LIKE *THIS!*



OHhhh, TOD! I'M SO DARNED UNHAPPY!

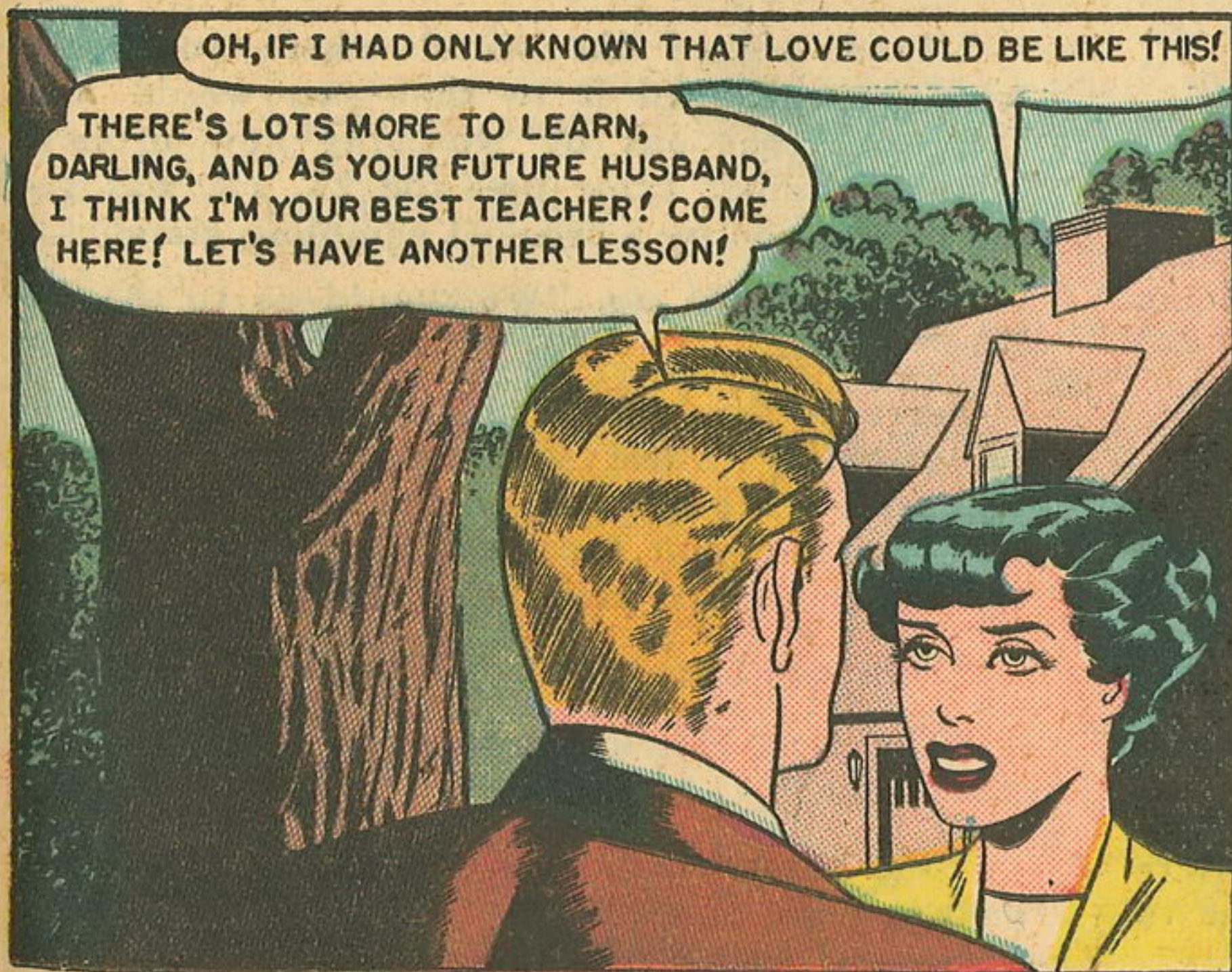
SURE YOU ARE, BABY! BUT MORE THAN THAT... YOU'RE AFRAID! WHEN HARRY ADOPTED YOU, YOU FASTENED ONTO HIM AND MADE HIM YOUR WHOLE EXISTENCE! AND WHEN HE TOOK A WIFE, YOU WERE SURE THAT ONCE AGAIN YOU WOULD BE LEFT UNLOVED!



His kiss, aflame with a passionate tenderness, reached to the core of my hungry, lonely heart, and I suddenly knew that this strange tumultuous emotion was more beautiful and exciting than the devotion I had labeled as the only kind of love!

OH, IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN THAT LOVE COULD BE LIKE THIS!

THERE'S LOTS MORE TO LEARN, DARLING, AND AS YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND, I THINK I'M YOUR BEST TEACHER! COME HERE! LET'S HAVE ANOTHER LESSON!



WINNER TAKE ALL

"I WARNED you," said Terrence Markum softly. "I warned you, and you wouldn't listen."

The others in the Skyline Casino were too busy at their games of roulette, chemin-de-fer and ecarte to hear us. I looked at Terrence and wished I had listened. But it was too late now.

"You played and lost," he said. "You lost more, and more. How will you pay?"

"Really, I don't know," I said, and managed to laugh. "You don't have the money to lend me, do you, Terrence?"

He shook his head. "Not now, Gloria. Not now." And he strolled away, hands in pockets, toward the roulette table.

Well, Terrence had turned from me. There was only one thing left for me to do. Hawk Bargo had sent a waiter to ask me to step into his office, and I headed toward it.

Hawk Bargo's office was beautifully, even luxuriously furnished, but Hawk himself did not look right in it. He was lean, sharp-featured, tigerish. Or wolfish. He grinned at me, and fiddled with some papers on his desk.

"Hi, Miss Baldwin," he said. "Sit down. I've just been adding up your I. O. U.'s."

"Hawk, I can't pay them right now. You'll have to give me a little time. While I was playing, I heard that my investments had lost money—"

"Yep, I heard the same thing while you were playing." He smiled again. His teeth were sharp, white, hungry-looking. "You've got about ten times as much paper out as you can pay for."

"I say, I can't pay those debts now. I have nothing to offer you."

"Yes, you have," he said, as though correcting a careless mistake. "You've got just what I'll take and call things square."

"What's that?"

He winked a dark eye. "You. Yourself."

I winced and gasped. "Oh, come on," he mocked me. "Am I as repulsive as that? Don't answer that question, I probably am. But you can't afford to be choosy."

"You mean, you want me?" I said foolishly.

"That's just what I mean. Look, you're in society. You've got looks, class, friends. Married to you, I'd be in solid here. I'd be able to

get all your crowd to play here. And the cops would think twice about raiding the guy who'd married Gloria Baldwin, huh?"

I could only stare. I couldn't say yes, and I dared not say no.

"We'd have fun," he went on, still smiling. "Florida for the races, California for the studios, Tiajuana for the big gambling. You might not like it at first, but you'd get to like it. You have a real yen for gambling . . . why not work up one for a gambler?"

"Hawk, I can't."

"Then get up the money. And right now. Tonight."

A knock at the door. Hawk scowled. "Who's that?" he called.

In at the door came Terrence. On the desk he tossed a huge sheaf of bills. "That's to settle Miss Baldwin's debt," he said. "Never mind the change. Come on, Gloria."

We walked away from Hawk's fury-distorted glare, out through the casino to his car. Inside, I almost collapsed in Terrence's arms.

"I'll never gamble again," I half moaned.

"I certainly hope you won't," he said gently.

"Hawk knew all the time I couldn't settle my debts tonight."

Terrence laughed. "I knew it, too. You see, I'm as interested in you as Hawk Bargo. That's why I hung around, watching you play."

"What do you mean?"

"Hawk rigged the wheel where you made your bets. Rigged it so that you would lose. I figured that out by watching how often a certain number came up—the 23. He was going to win you by a crooked gambling gimmick."

I straightened up. "We should go to the police!" I said.

Terrence shook his head. "Oh, no. That crooked gambling wheel was our salvation. When you left, I bet my roll on the 23. They had to take my bet, and I came through, with thirty to one, enough to pay your debts."

"How can I repay you, Terrence?" I quavered.

"The way Hawk wanted you to repay him. Marry me."

"Right now," I said. "Quick, before you change your mind."

ILLUSION OF RAPTURE



How could I, LISA NORRIS, FORSAKE MY AVOWED DUTY IN AFFAIRS OF STATE TO YIELD TO A PULSATING DESIRE FOR THE UNSCRUPULOUS KIRK MARTIN? HE DESTROYED MY WILL WITH A GLANCE, AND LED MY HEART FROM THE THUNDERING HEIGHTS OF ECSTASY TO A BOTTOMLESS PIT OF DESPAIR! WAS THIS THEN THE END TO MY DREAMS OF A POLITICAL CRUSADE... AS I WANTONLY CAST ASIDE MY PRIDE FOR THIS MAN IN WHOSE THRILLING EMBRACE I SUGGUMBED TO AN *ILLUSION OF RAPTURE!*



MISS NORRIS, YOUR WRITING INTERESTS US! IF YOU WERE OLDER AND POLITICALLY MORE EXPERIENCED...

I REALLY DON'T SEE WHAT MY AGE OR POLITICAL EXPERIENCE HAS TO DO WITH IT, SIR! I HAVE VERY DEFINITE IDEAS ON WHAT OUR STATE NEEDS, AND I FEEL THAT I'M SPEAKING FOR THE PEOPLE WHEN I EXPRESS THEM!



I became a political light while I was still in college, writing editorials for the University news-paper! Important men took notice of my criticism of the state government!

I was opinionated and strong-willed then, and it was no surprise to me when, after graduation, I was again approached by that same political leader...

CONGRATULATIONS, LISA, YOUR POLITICAL STAR IS RISING! WE'VE DECIDED TO RUN YOU FOR ASSEMBLY-WOMAN!

THANK YOU, SIR... AND WHEN I WIN THE ELECTION, YOU'LL KNOW YOU MADE A WISE CHOICE!



UNTAMED LOVE

I, TOO, FEEL CERTAIN YOU'LL BE ELECTED... MY ONLY WORRY IS YOU! YOUR BEAUTY IS A HINDRANCE! YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT YOU WILL ENCOUNTER MANY DIFFERENT MEN!

DON'T WORRY! A MAN COULDN'T SWERVE ME FROM MY AMBITION!

I resented the knowing look on his face, and I felt sure that I could handle any person or situation that might bar my way!

And throughout the campaign I did just that! I accepted no favors and I gave none!

YOUR JOB IS THAT OF A WARD HEELER...THIS ISN'T PART OF IT!

BUT I'VE WORKED LIKE A DOG TO HELP YOU WIN THIS ELECTION!

I swept into office in a local landslide of votes, and on election night I met the party's young State Senator!

THANK YOU, MR. BARSTOW! HOWEVER, I'M SURE MY APPEARANCE DIDN'T PUT ME IN OFFICE! I'VE WORKED VERY HARD, YOU KNOW, AND I INTEND TO CONCENTRATE STRICTLY ON MY JOB!

I felt no regret at having spoken sharply to Lee Barstow! My reputation as a cold woman was now established in the capital, and I meant to get down to business with no outside interference!

LISA, MEET OUR STATE SENATOR, LEE BARSTOW! SENATOR, THIS IS OUR NEW ASSEMBLYWOMAN, LISA NORRIS!

A PLEASURE, MISS NORRIS... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL REPRESENTATIVE!

BUT, MISS NORRIS, I DIDN'T MEAN...

NEVER MIND, LEE! YOUR COLLEAGUE IS A CRUSADER... SHE HAS NO TIME FOR PLEASANTRIES!

...AND WE CANNOT POSSIBLY PASS A BILL WHICH WOULD ALLOW GAMBLING TO RUN RAMPANT! I, FOR ONE, AM IRREVOCABLY OPPOSED TO IT!

I HEARD YOUR SPEECH, LISA! IT WAS PERFECT! THE VOTING ON THIS BILL IS CLOSE AND THE OUTSIDE PRESSURE TO PASS IT IS VERY HEAVY! WE'VE GOT A FIGHT AHEAD OF US!

I REALIZE THAT, LEE, AND IT'S REASSURING TO KNOW YOU'LL SPEAK AGAINST THE BILL WHEN IT REACHES THE SENATE!

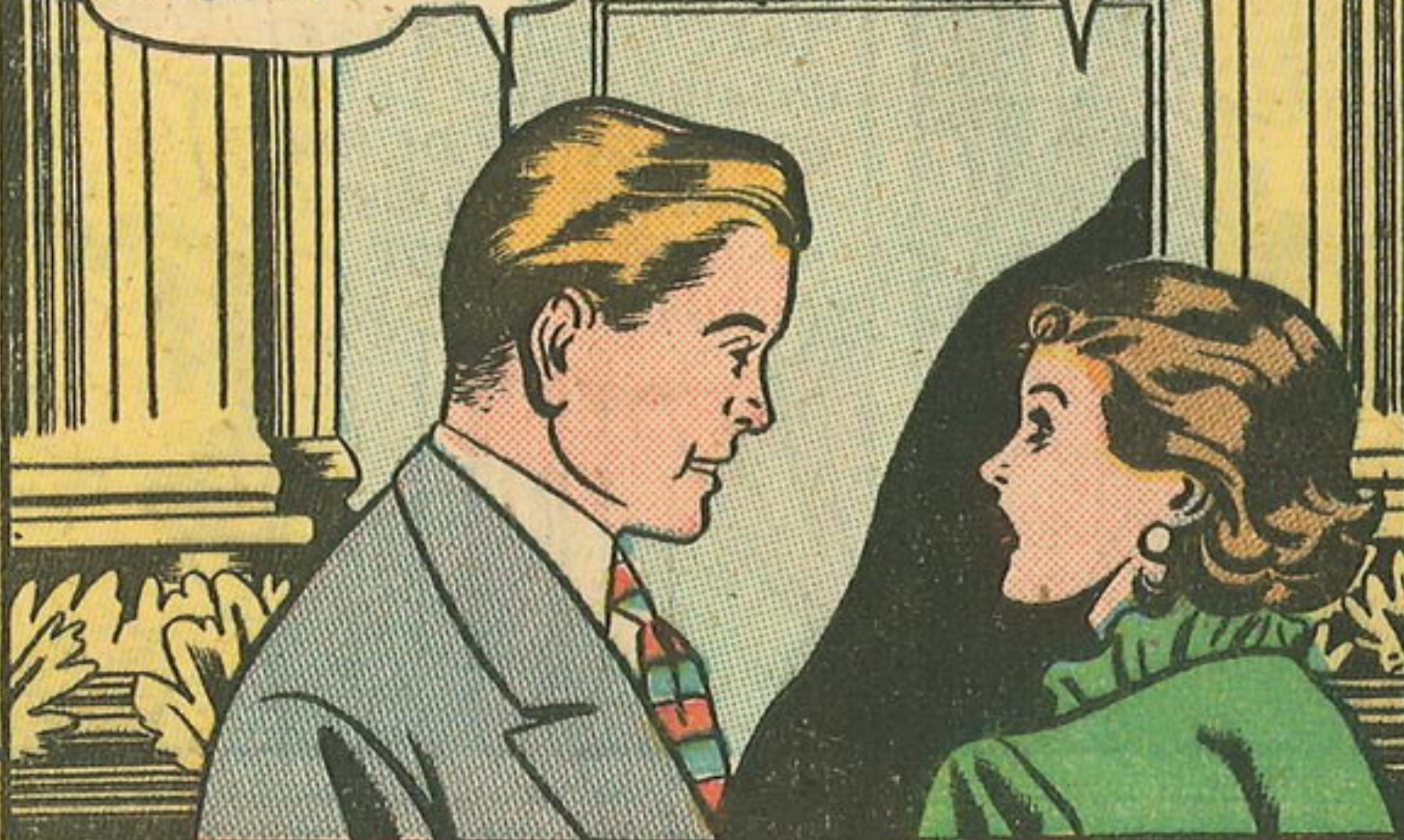
How right he was! I plunged into my work with vehemence, and made my first speech on the floor of the House against the proposed bill to legalize gambling in our state!

UNTAMED LOVE

I rather liked Lee Barstow! We had become friends of a sort during our association in the state capital! He was high principled and a fine senator... but I continued to keep my cold reserve in the foreground!

I UNDERSTAND WE'LL BE ATTENDING THE SAME AFFAIR THIS EVENING AT MRS. STONE'S! SHE'S THE CAPITAL'S MOST ENTHUSIASTIC PARTY-GIVER AND SHE'S INVITED EVERYONE OF ANY IMPORTANCE TO THIS ONE! I'D LIKE TO ESCORT YOU, IF I MAY!

THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU, LEE, BUT I HAVE MORE WORK TO DO ON MY FIGHT AGAINST THIS GAMBLING BILL AND I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TIME I'LL BE GOING TO THE PARTY!



I went to the party alone, and arrived when it was at its height!

GOOD EVENING, MISS NORRIS! I HEARD ABOUT YOUR WONDERFUL SPEECH IN THE HOUSE TODAY... MARVELOUS... MARVELOUS, MY DEAR!

HOW DO YOU DO, MRS. STONE!



As I left my garrulous hostess, my eyes met those of a dark stranger --- the exquisite thrill of his glance swept over me, enveloping my entire being, and almost against my will, I found myself staring at him as though drawn by a powerful magnet!



I stood there, and he approached me slowly with a panther-like grace! I couldn't help but notice his wonderful crooked smile and the expanse of his broad shoulders!

I HOPE YOU REMEMBER MEETING ME, MISS NORRIS --- KIRK MARTIN!

I....



The words stuck in my throat... his very nearness sent wave after wave of the strangest feelings through me! This was a sensation entirely new and my voice trembled slightly as I replied!

I-I SEEM TO RECALL OUR MEETING, MR. MARTIN!



WE NEEDN'T BOTHER WITH FURTHER FORMALITIES, WE CAN PICK UP OUR ACQUAINTANCE AND CONTINUE IT!

WHY, YES... OF COURSE!



He picked up my lie smoothly and I felt no shame in it, only a haunting weakness, as though my will was being dominated and I didn't care... I didn't care!

His touch was a flame on my arm and as I struggled inwardly to regain my composure, Lee interrupted!

THERE YOU ARE, LISA, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL EVENING! OH, HELLO, MARTIN!

HOW ARE YOU, SENATOR?



For a brief moment, I resented Lee being there, but as he swept me out onto the dance floor, I was grateful! My thoughts needed to be put in order! Kirk Martin had awakened feelings in me which I could not understand!

YOU'LL EXCUSE LISA, I'M SURE! POLITICAL PARTNERS MUST HAVE THE FIRST DANCE YOU KNOW!



OF COURSE! I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED! LISA HAS GIVEN THE REST OF THE EVENING TO ME!



Kirk's possessive manner both thrilled and alarmed me! As we danced away, my eyes sought his and Lee's words barely penetrated my thoughts!

LISA, YOU'RE PLAYING WITH FIRE! MARTIN IS A DANGEROUS MAN, HE'S A CROOKED GAMBLER AND HIS REPUTATION IN THE RACKETS IS EQUALLY UNSAVORY! AND WITH WOMEN...WELL, THAT'S BETTER LEFT UNSAID! I WISH YOU'D STEER CLEAR OF HIM! WHERE DID YOU MEET HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE?



LEE BARSTOW, I WON'T LISTEN TO ANOTHER WORD OF YOUR SLANDEROUS ACCUSATIONS! AND YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO RIGHT TO ASK THOSE STUPID QUESTIONS!



BUT YOU DON'T KNOW...

I'M SURE SHE KNOWS ALL SHE NEEDS TO KNOW, SENATOR!

I LIKE YOU THIS WAY, LISA! YOU'RE A FIRE-BRAND, CONTRARY TO YOUR REPUTATION AS A CALM, COOL LAWMAKER!



PLEASE... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE FOR A MOMENT!

I wanted to escape from the noise and the people, and I reluctantly admitted to myself that I wanted to be alone with Kirk! Lee's warning was like a thing of the distant past as we slipped into the small study at the side of the ballroom!



WILL THIS DO?

OH, YES! THE BEATING OF THOSE ORCHESTRA DRUMS IS MADDENING!

YES, VERY MADDENING...LIKE THE BEAT OF MY PULSE WHEN YOU BRUSH BY! COME HERE!



My senses reeled as Kirk crushed me to him, and his demanding lips on mine ignited my soul into the flame of desire! My entire being throbbed in an ecstasy of excitement!



I abandoned myself to the rapture of his burning kisses... and I was lost, sinking...sinking into the oblivion of my own world of love!



UNTAMED LOVE



MY DARLING, I LOVE YOU SO! I WANT TO DO SO MUCH FOR YOU! YOU'RE EVERYTHING TO ME... TELL ME YOU FEEL THE SAME!

YOU'RE THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME! YOU KNOW THAT, LISA!



I'D LIKE TO GO HOME, KIRK! I DON'T WANT TO GO IN TO THE PARTY AGAIN! SURELY NO ONE WILL MISS US!

WE CAN LEAVE RIGHT NOW, IF YOU WISH!

The drive home was calming! We talked of many things and I felt as though I was living in a dream! My career, Lee Barstow's outburst on the dance floor... everything seemed far away! Kirk must have sensed this, yet he started to talk politics, and eventually came around to my stand on the gambling bill!



I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE IN FIGHTING THE BILL, DEAREST, BUT I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE DISPLAYING THE WISDOM YOU SHOULD!

I...I TOOK THE ONLY ROAD THAT SEEMED RIGHT!

I brushed aside the doubts that assailed me! In Kirk's presence I forgot all feelings but my love for him! I could deny him nothing!

PERHAPS, LISA, BUT AS LEE BARSTOW TOLD YOU, I AM A GAMBLER, THOUGH NOT THE KIND HE DESCRIBED! IF THIS BILL IS SMASHED, I'M THROUGH IN THIS STATE! I'LL HAVE TO MOVE ON!



His words sent an agony of panic through me! How could I go on with a fight that would destroy my love?



KIRK! I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF BEING APART FROM YOU! TELL ME WHAT TO DO, DARLING... TELL ME!

THAT'S EASY, MY DEAR! THE BILL MUST PASS THE HOUSE!

CERTAINLY YOU GENTLEMEN CAN UNDERSTAND THE REASONING BEHIND MY CHANGE OF VIEW ON THE BILL! IF WE LEGALIZE GAMBLING, IT WILL ALL COME OUT IN THE OPEN, NO MORE OF THESE LOW HIDEAWAYS!

TRUE...TRUE! BUT WHAT IS THE GUARANTEE THAT THE CROOKED GAMBLERS, ONE IN PARTICULAR, WOULDN'T FLOURISH UNDER LEGAL GAMBLING EVEN BETTER THAN THEY DO WHILE GAMBLING IS ILLEGAL?



In the weeks that followed, I plunged into my work with a feverish energy, reversing my stand on the gambling bill and trying to convince other wavering members that my reversal was for the good of the state!

His words stung and I was ashamed! Shame gnawed at me constantly during those days! But the nights...the nights were filled with heady excitement as Kirk and I met secretly! There I put aside all loyalties of office as I surrendered to the endless thrill of his nearness!



MUCH AS I LOVE THESE RENDEZVOUS, DARLING, I'LL BE SO THANKFUL WHEN WE CAN MEET IN THE OPEN!

UM HMM! WHEN THE BILL GOES THROUGH! BUT YOUR ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES MUST NOT FEEL YOU'VE BEEN PITCHING FOR ME!

Later that week, Kirk's words echoed in my ears as the gambling bill passed the House with a margin of only one vote! Instead of triumph, I felt only a hollow emptiness! Had I selfishly sold out the people to indulge myself in a love that was wrong? Lee Barstow kindled my doubts when he met me after the voting!



I'VE BEEN TRYING TO SEE YOU FOR DAYS, LISA! MAY I DRIVE YOU HOME?

OF COURSE, LEE!

I knew why Lee had sought me out! My attendance at the House sessions had been anything but good! I had avoided them until voting time, suddenly refusing to try and convince other House members to believe in something I could not believe in myself! Lee had wanted to reach me before I cast my ballot... before I voted a lie!

HOW COULD YOU DO IT, LISA? I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOUR INFATUATION FOR KIRK MARTIN COULD LEAD YOU TO CHANGE YOUR VOTE! YOU KNEW HOW CLOSE IT WAS...YOU KNEW THAT EVERY VOTE COUNTED! WHY DID YOU LET HIM...



HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT KIRK AND ME? WE'VE KEPT OUR LOVE A SECRET! NOBODY KNOWS!

I KNOW, LISA! I'VE MADE IT MY BUSINESS TO KNOW! YOU SEE, I LOVE YOU!

LOVE...LOVE, WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF LOVE...SNEAKING AROUND, SPYING ON PEOPLE! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, LEE BARSTOW!

HA! HA!



ALL RIGHT, FIREBRAND, GET IN THE CAR, I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SEEN HERE, YOU KNOW!

BUT YOU SAID AFTER THE BILL PASSES...



...AFTER IT PASSES THE SENATE! WE HAVE THAT PRETTY WELL SEWED UP, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS...NOTABLY YOUR ERSTWHILE FRIEND, BARSTOW! JUDGING FROM WHAT I OVERHEARD OF YOUR CONVERSATION, YOU COULD WIN HIM OVER TO OUR SIDE, LISA, IF YOU PLAYED YOUR CARDS RIGHT! THOUGH YOU DIDN'T DO TOO GOOD A JOB IN THE HOUSE, THE BILL ONLY PASSED BY ONE VOTE!



I couldn't believe what I heard! Kirk was suggesting that I betray my trust again, and use Lee's love for me to change his vote in the Senate! Did I really know Kirk Martin? Was my love for him to lead me forever downward, brushing aside the last vestige of my integrity?

DON'T LOOK SO GLUM! THIS IS A DAY FOR CELEBRATION AND I'M GOING TO CELEBRATE BY SHOWING YOU ONE OF THOSE LOW HIDE-AWAYS YOU SPOKE OF IN THE HOUSE!

BUT REALLY, I'D RATHER NOT!



IT'S REALLY QUITE RESPECTABLE THUS FAR, ISN'T IT? AFTER ALL, DARLING, YOU'RE THE LITTLE LEGISLATOR WHO IS HELPING TO LEGALIZE GAMBLING FOR ME! NOW KISS ME AND STOP WORRYING!

NOT NOW, KIRK! WHATEVER IS THAT DREADFUL DIN INSIDE?

YOU DIRTY CHEAT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF MARTIN'S CROOKED GAMBLING JOINT!



UNTAMED LOVE

My words sparked him to action and I saw a frightening transformation come over him! Kirk was furious as he threw open the door to the gaming room and strode in! He was like a man possessed... a man suddenly ugly in his anger! The croupier was arguing with a customer who was about to hit him!



THAT'S THE LAST TIME YOU'LL USE LOADED DICE ON ME, YOU CROOK!

STOP RIGHT THERE, FRIEND!

As the man turned to him, Kirk drew a snub-nosed gun from his pocket and I shrank back in horror! This was the man whose love I had accepted... this dreadful gun-carrying gangster!

BUT HE USED CROOKED DICE... ER!

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT WHEN YOU CAME HERE, BUD... TIDDLY-WINKS? GET OUT!



HOLD EVERYTHING! THIS IS A RAID! EVERYBODY STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

The police rounded up the employees and customers alike! A policeman stood beside me, thinking I was a customer! As I waited, trembling, Kirk paused before me to hurl vile, stunning accusations!



YOU PHONEY! YOU'RE BEHIND THIS RAID! WELL, LET ME TELL YOU, BABY, I USED YOU TO GET JUST WHAT I WANTED, PASSAGE OF THAT BILL IN THE HOUSE, AND NOTHING MORE!

YOU... YOU, LOATHSOME THUG... I HATE THE VERY SIGHT OF YOU!

Mercifully, as I burst into tears, Lee appeared out of nowhere and took me into his strong arms! I heard him speaking to the police chief, telling him a fantastic story!



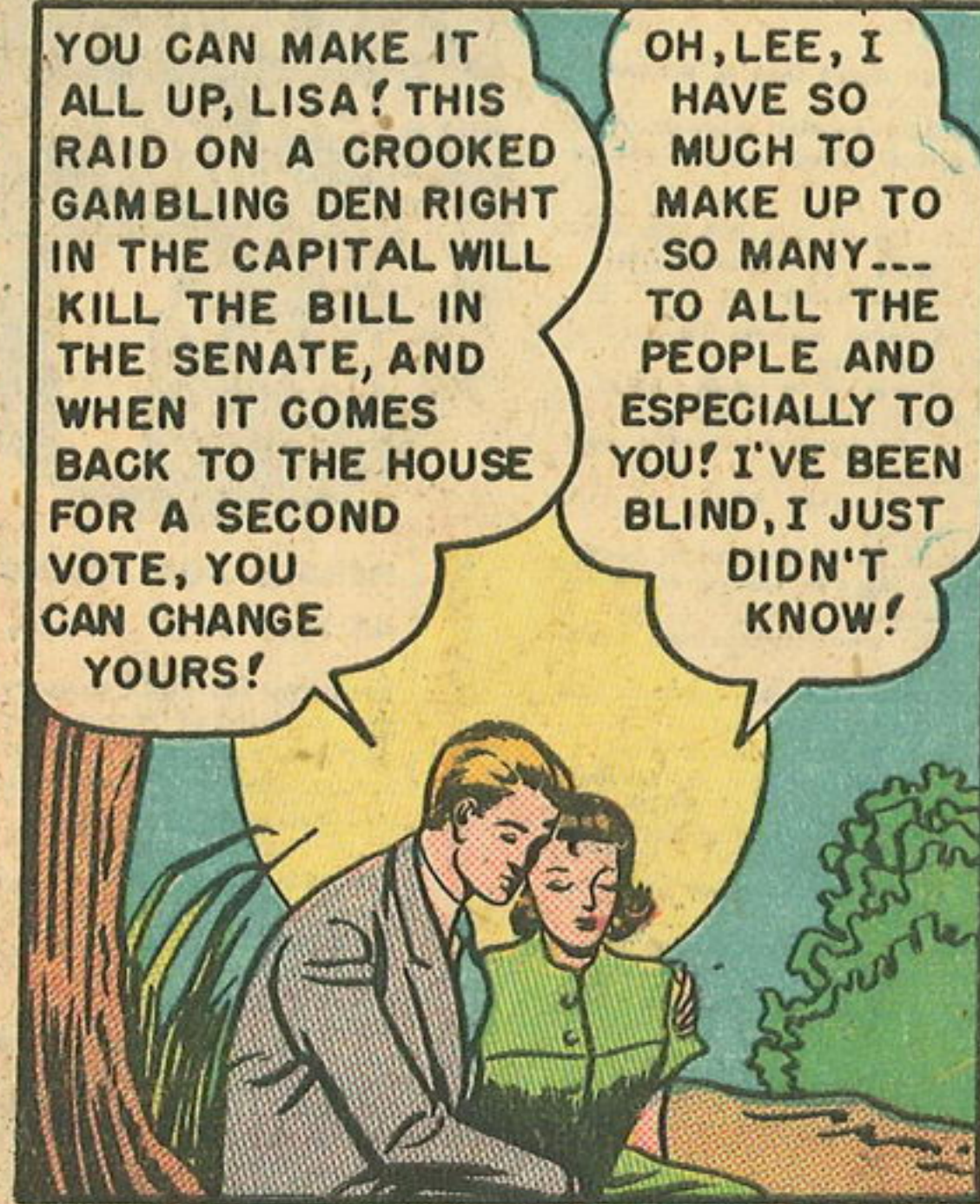
YES, CAPTAIN, MISS NORRIS KNEW ABOUT THIS RAID AND LED MARTIN HERE SO YOU COULD GET HIM AND COMPLETE THE CASE! SHE'S DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB ALL ALONG THE LINE! ILLEGAL GAMBLING IS AT AN END IN THIS STATE!

SOB! OH, LEE! SOB!



I MEANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE RAID, DARLING, AND WHEN I DIDN'T GET THE CHANGE, I FOLLOWED YOU HERE!

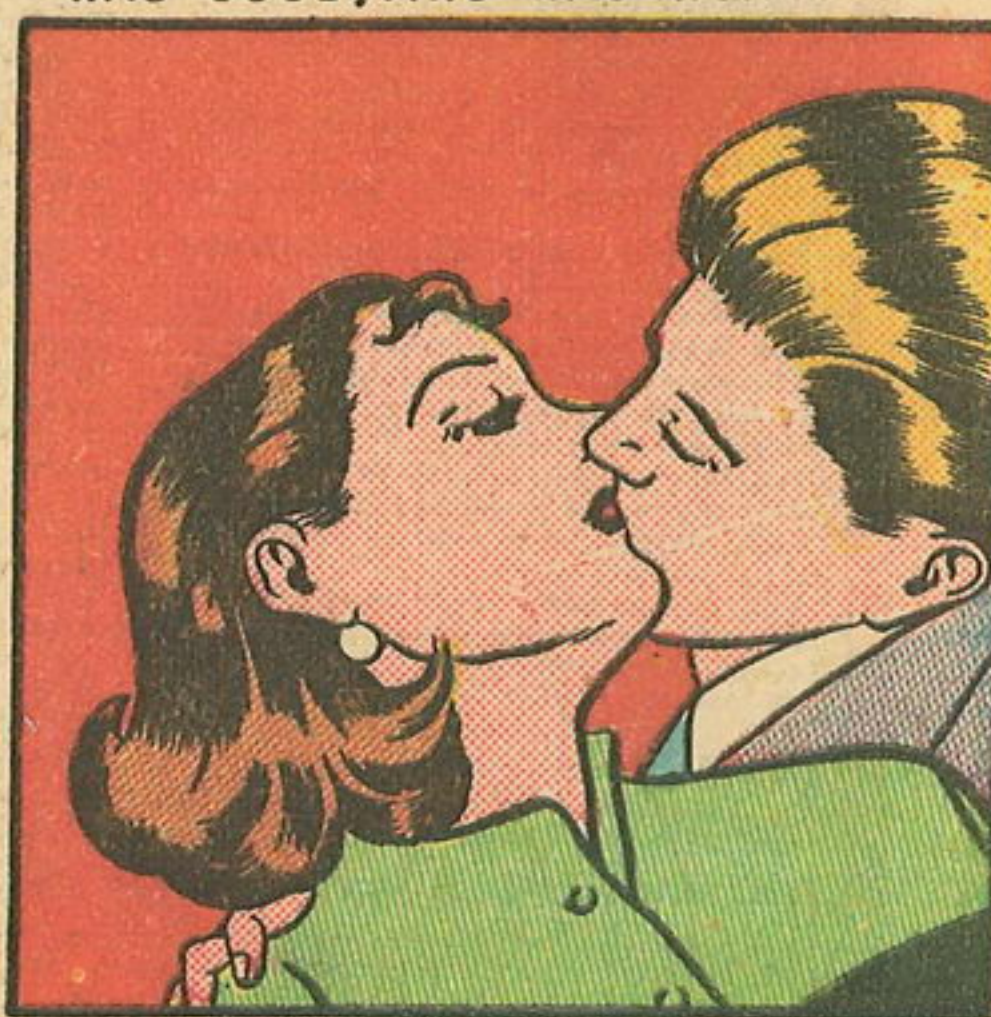
BUT IT'S ALL A LIE! I DON'T DESERVE TO BE SAVED! I'VE BETRAYED MY OFFICE!



YOU CAN MAKE IT ALL UP, LISA! THIS RAID ON A CROOKED GAMBLING DEN RIGHT IN THE CAPITAL WILL KILL THE BILL IN THE SENATE, AND WHEN IT COMES BACK TO THE HOUSE FOR A SECOND VOTE, YOU CAN CHANGE YOURS!

OH, LEE, I HAVE SO MUCH TO MAKE UP TO SO MANY... TO ALL THE PEOPLE AND ESPECIALLY TO YOU! I'VE BEEN BLIND, I JUST DIDN'T KNOW!

BUT THEN I KNEW THE BEGINNING OF TRUE LOVE IN THE ARMS OF THE RIGHT MAN WITH THE INFINITE TENDERNESS OF HIS KISS! THIS WAS REAL, THIS WAS GOOD, THIS WAS RIGHT!



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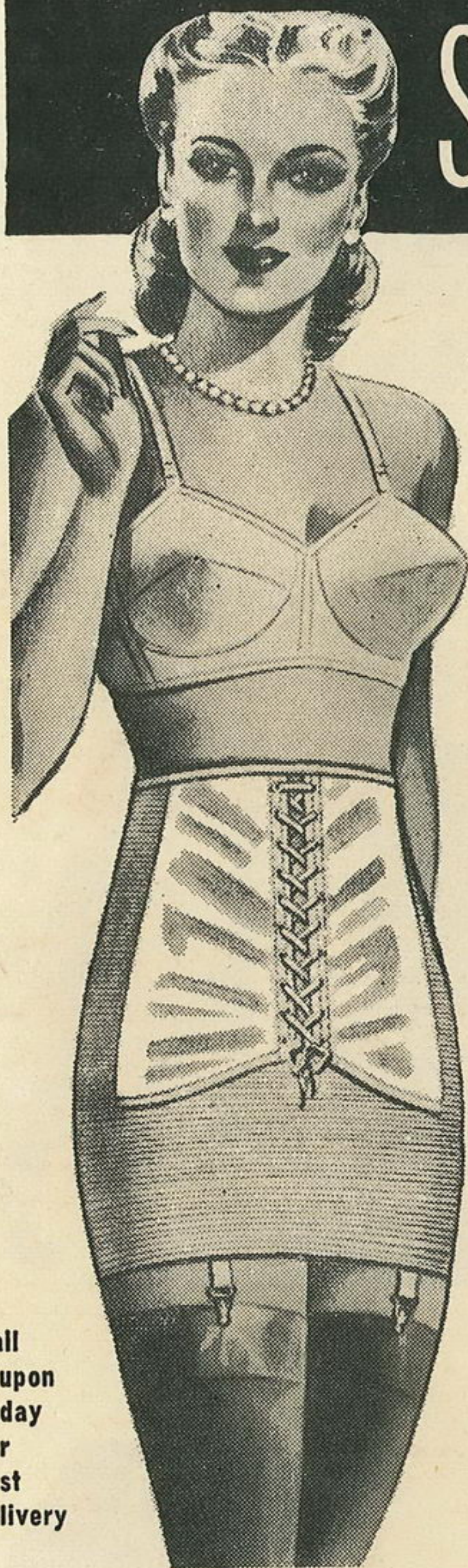
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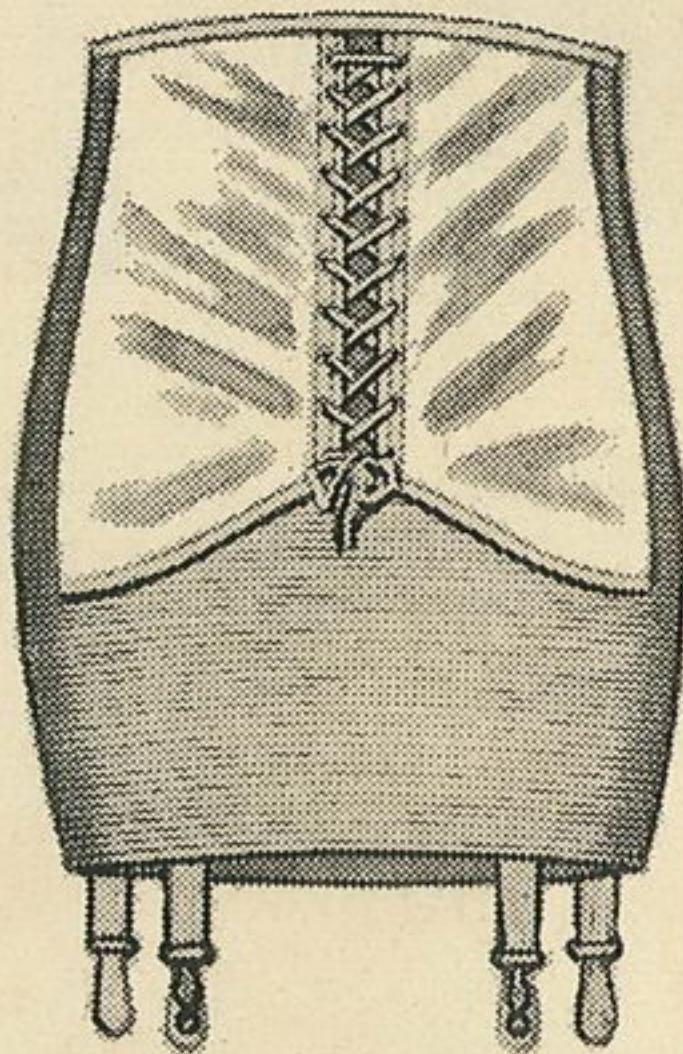
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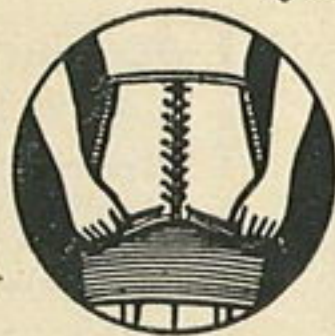
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